THE MONTHLY REVIEW,

For SEPTEMBER, 1803.

ART. I. *An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales*, from its first Settlement, in January 1788, to August 1801: With Remarks on the Dispositions, Customs, Manners, &c. of the Native Inhabitants of that Country. To which are added, some Particulars of New Zealand; compiled, by Permission, from the MSS. of Lieutenant-Governor King; and an Account of a Voyage performed by Captain Flinders and Mr. Bass; by which the Existence of a Strait separating Van Dieman's Land from the Continent of New Holland was ascertained: abstracted from the Journal of Mr. Bass. By Lieutenant-Colonel Collins, of the Royal Marines, late Judge-Advocate and Secretary of the Colony. Illustrated by Engravings. Vol. II. 4to. pp. 335. 1l. 5s. Boards. Cadell and Davies. 1802.

THE question whether colonial possessions are eventually advantageous to the parent state is a very important one, and many able politicians have been at variance in their discussion of it. Circumstances, however, will undoubtedly make a difference with respect to the eligibility of such property; and perhaps, therefore, the rule should not be made general either way, but each case be decided by its own particular merits: or at least, if an abstract position be taken, it must be liable to exceptions. The policy of forming a settlement at New South Wales, by transporting thither a number of offenders against the laws of this country, has been much canvassed; and at this distance of time since it was first established, the final success of the experiment is more than doubtful: but, be the issue what it may, the annals of this Antipodean colony present a curious variety in the history of our species, which cannot fail to fix the attention and exercise the reasoning of speculative minds. The more immediate dictates of duty imperiously call on the legislature to weigh, with much candour and deliberation, all authentic details of this undertaking; and thence to decide on the propriety of maintaining at an enormous expence the refuse of our society, on such distant and unpromising shores: where so very few individuals have been

reclaimed from their vicious propensities, and so many have expiated their follies and their crimes by the hand of the executioner, or by the spear of the savage, or by the poison of ardent spirits.

The first volume of this work was mentioned at considerable length in our xxviith vol. N. S., and Colonel Collins informs us that he has prepared the second from materials on which he can safely stake his credit.—To relieve the monotony of details which are not in their nature very gratifying, he has interspersed occasional notices of natural history; and he has given the substance of two voyages in the order in which they occurred, instead of throwing them into an appendix.

Colonel C. re-commences his journal in September 1796, when the erection of a log-prison at each of the towns of Sydney and Parramatta occupied the principal attention of the Governor and his officers. Some of the convicts were so addicted to practise imposition, and their behaviour was so incorrigibly flagitious, that it became necessary for the public safety to complete the construction of these places of confinement with all possible dispatch. On the 29th of November, eight prisoners were capitally convicted, viz. one of wilful murder, and seven of robbing the public stores; and of these unfortunate people, five were executed.

'The court having ordered that Francis Morgan should be hung in chains upon the small island which is situated in the middle of the harbour, and named by the natives Mat-te-wan-ye, a gibbet was accordingly erected, and he was hung there, exhibiting an object of much greater terror to the natives, than to the white people, many of whom were more inclined to make a jest of it; but to the natives his appearance was so frightful,—his clothes shaking in the wind, and the creaking of his irons, added to their superstitious ideas of ghosts (for these children of ignorance imagined that, like a ghost, this man might have the power of taking hold of them by the throat), all rendering him such an alarming object to them,—that they never trusted themselves near him, nor the spot on which he hung; which, until this time, had ever been with them a favourite place of resort.'

We are likewise told that, 'the savage inhabitants of the country, instead of losing any part of their native ferocity of manners by an intercourse with the Europeans among whom they dwelt, seemed rather to delight in exhibiting themselves as monsters of the greatest cruelty, devoid of reason, and guided solely by the impulse of the worst passions.' The sequel affords too many instances of this painful truth. The prospect of introducing civilization and the arts among thinly scattered tribes of wretched beings;—who, invested with

the human form, have wandered, perhaps for many ages, in their native woods, destitute of clothing, and limiting their numbers by the most brutal modes of infanticide and a malignant spirit of petty and incessant warfare;—may kindle in some benevolent bosoms the flame of ecstatic philanthropy: but it cannot, we apprehend, be realized through the good offices and kind cares of those who are publicly branded with infamy and guilt, and who have forfeited their liberty to the laws of their own country.

In January 1797, 'the weather had been most uncomfortably hot, accompanied with some severe thunder storms; in one of which both the flag-staff at the south-head, and that at the entrance of the Cove, on Point Maskelyne, were shivered to pieces by the lightning. The vast blazes of fire, which were seen in every direction, and which were freshened by every blast of wind, added much to the suffocating heat that prevailed.' The heat and drought are sometimes so excessive as to burn up vegetation, and nearly to annihilate the crops of wheat and maize. Fahrenheit's thermometer once stood at 107 in the shade. Thunder and hail storms are also remarked for their violence; and the river Hawkesbury is subject to very sudden and dangerous floods.—Thus the elements conspire with men to retard the progress of this very extraordinary settlement.

Mention is made of a singular theft about the middle of March. 'While the miller was absent for a short time, part of the sails belonging to the mill were stolen. Now this machine was at work for the benefit of those very incorrigible vagabonds who had thus, for a time, prevented its being of use to any one, and who, being too lazy to grind for themselves, had formerly been obliged to pay one third of their whole allowance of wheat, to have the remainder ground for them by handmills, an expence that was saved to them by bringing their corn to the public mill.'

By a more zealous than judicious interference of the Governor, the prices of labour were regulated by a fixed tariff, of which a table is inserted in the text.

About the same time, the peaceable settlers were not a little molested, on the one hand, by 600 convicts whose terms of service had expired, and, on the other, by the predatory attacks of a large body of the natives.—Here we must beg leave to advert to the peculiar hardship of those minor delinquents, whose season of bondage was limited to a certain period. Their certificate of emancipation, so far from restoring them to the condition in which punishment had overtaken them, only absolved them from the performance of public service,

and left them a dead weight on themselves and on the factitious community to which they belonged. Unless they could afford to defray their passage home, (which can scarcely be expected,) sentence of transportation for seven years was equivalent to perpetual banishment from England; and, most probably, to an additional load of idleness on a colony which still depended for its existence on the mother country. We have also to notice the shameful neglect of transporting many Irish convicts, without intimating, by any official document, the duration of their respective terms of bondage. This evil was, indeed, afterward partially corrected; and we trust that it is now wholly removed.

From the contemplation of physical disadvantages and moral enormities, it is pleasing to turn to objects of real utility. In the month of April, an excellent and seasonable substitute for hemp was discovered in the bark of a tree which was observed on the banks of the Hawkesbury. This tree, of which an accurate description is given, grew to the height of from fifty to seventy feet, and its diameter was from the smallest size to a foot. If the bark be soaked in water, and beaten, it spins easily, and is remarkably strong.—In September, Lieutenant Shortland, of the Reliance, found a very considerable quantity of coal in a harbour in Hunter's River.

The intercourse with India was found to be pregnant with great evil to the colony, as it afforded a facility of procuring spirituous liquors; which were in much greater request than any foreign commodity whatever, and which, in spite of every precaution, continued to exercise their baneful influence on the health and conduct of their devoted victims.

A fruitless search was made after fifteen convicts, who had effected their escape from the settlement in two boats: but, as the weather was stormy when they put off from land, it was presumed that they had perished. In consequence of this event, the Governor prohibited the building of boats without his previous permission.

Towards the latter end of November, James Wilson, who had roamed for some time among the natives, and had submitted to the painful operation of having his breast and shoulders scarified after their manner, surrendered himself to the Governor's clemency, and received his pardon. It was judiciously proposed, that he should be employed in search of some of the convicts who were at large in the woods.

In pp. 62. & 321. the Colonel gives some particulars respecting the *Ornithorhynchús Paradoxus;* which was introduced to our readers in our xxxixth vol. p. 403.

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'Although the settlement (he says) had now been established within a month of ten years, yet little had been added to the stock of natural history which had been acquired in the first year or two of its infancy. The Kangooroo, the Dog, the Opossum, the Flying Squirrel, the Kangooroo Rat, a spotted Rat, the common Rat, and the large Fox-bat (if entitled to a place in this society), made up the whole catalogue of animals that were known at this time, with the exception which must now be made of an amphibious animal, of the mole species, one of which had been lately found on the banks of a lake near the Hawkesbury. In size it was considerably larger than the land mole. The eyes were very small. The fore legs, which were shorter than the hind, were observed, at the feet, to be provided with four claws, and a membrane, or web, that spread considerably beyond them, while the feet of the hind legs were furnished, not only with this membrane or web, but with four long and sharp claws, that projected as much beyond the web, as the web projected beyond the claws of the fore feet. The tail of this animal was thick, short, and very fat; but the most extraordinary circumstance observed in its structure was, its having, instead of the mouth of an animal, the upper and lower mandibles of a duck. By these it was enabled to supply itself with food, like that bird, in muddy places, or on the banks of the lakes, in which its webbed feet enabled it to swim; while on shore, its long and sharp claws were employed in burrowing; nature thus providing for it in its double or amphibious character. These little animals had been frequently noticed rising to the surface of the water, and blowing like the turtle.'

In January 1798, the restless and discontented spirit of the Irish convicts, whose ignorance was equalled only by their inhumanity, broke forth in their disposition to traverse an unknown extent of woody and mountainous country, and to take up their abode in a supposed settlement of *whites*, or even in China. Several of these deluded wretches had occasionally run off into the woods, and had perished either by famine or the assaults of the natives. Their wild scheme of migration, however, was frustrated by the vigilance of the Governor; and, that he might convince them by their own experience of the futility of their project, he caused four of the stoutest and boldest among them to be chosen by themselves, and properly prepared for a journey of discovery. They were to be accompanied by three men, in whom the Governor could confide, and were to be re-conducted to the settlement, when tired of their journey. Accordingly, they left Parramatta on the 14th of January: but three of them came back, with their military escort, on the 24th, having advanced only to the foot of the first ridge of mountains. The rest of the party returned on the 9th of February. The result of their observations (if the observations of such people be worthy of reliance) is, that they penetrated about 140 miles in

a south-westerly direction from Parramatta, crossed some tracts of good soil thinly wooded, met with a large cliff of rock-salt, and saw Kangooroos, Emus, and the superb Mænura, which last they had mistaken for the Pheasant. With great difficulty, they had procured a precarious and miserable subsistence, and returned emaciated, and almost fainting.

It was at this time that Mr. Bass, a gentleman distinguished by his activity and intelligence, explored the coast as far to the southward as latitude 40°, in a whale-boat, but found only in one place a harbour capable of admitting ships. 'There was every appearance of an extensive strait, or rather an open sea, between the latitudes of 39° and 40° south, and that Van Diemen's land consisted (as had been conjectured) of a group of islands lying off the southern coast of the country.' This appearance was afterward completely verified.

On the 14th of May, the Nautilus, a small brig, arrived in a very leaky condition from Otaheite. Her commander, Mr. Bishop, had shewn every attention to the unfortunate missionaries of that quarter, which the shattered state of his vessel would permit; 'he embarked men, women, and children, to the number of 19; and, though with infinite difficulty, brought them in safety to this port, the vessel being so extremely leaky, that it required the labour of the whole company to keep her above water. She was not able to bring them all away, six or seven remaining upon the island, whose fate was certainly very precarious. Those who had arrived were treated by the colonists with every attention, and every possible relief administered to their distresses.'

On the 18th of July, the Britannia whaler arrived from England, 'with 94 female convicts, who were forthwith landed, and some of them were sent to Parramatta and Toongabbe. The cattle that were brought in the Hunter, and which were sold by auction at this time, were not greater objects of contest than were these females, the number of women in the settlements bearing no proportion to the men.' The marked indulgence, however, with which they were received, produced no amelioration of conduct. To the disgrace of their sex, the females appear to have been the first in every species of profligacy, and the last in acquiring habits of regular industry. Yet we should recollect that, before the sense of shame becomes extinguished, women usually excel men in correctness of deportment, and in the practice of virtue.

At page 124, we find the following traits of the barbarity of the natives of New South Wales:

'Gaining every day some further knowledge of the inhuman habits and customs of these people, their being so thinly scattered through

through the country ceased to be a matter of surprise. It was almost daily seen, that from some trifling cause or other they were continually living in a state of warfare; to this must be added their brutal treatment of their women, who are themselves equally destructive to the measure of population, by the horrid and cruel custom of endeavouring to cause a miscarriage, which their female acquaintance effect by pressing the body in such a way, as to destroy the infant in the womb; which violence not unfrequently occasions the death of the unnatural mother also. To this they have recourse, to avoid the trouble of carrying the infant about when born, which, when it is very young, or at the breast, is the duty of the woman. The operation for this destructive purpose is termed Mee-brā. The burying an infant (when at the breast) with the mother, if she should die, is another shocking cause of the thinness of population among them. The fact that such an operation as the Mee-brā was practised by these wretched people was communicated by one of the natives to the principal surgeon of the settlement.'

At the commencement of 1799, agricultural concerns are said to have worn a most unpromising appearance. 'The wheat proved little better than straw or chaff; and the maize was burnt up in the ground for want of rain. From the establishment of the settlement, so much continued drought and suffocating heat had not been experienced. The country was now in flames; the wind northerly and parching; and some showers of rain, which fell on the 7th [January], were of no advantage, being immediately taken up again by the excessive heat of the sun.'

We have now to attend on Lieutenant (since Captain) Flinders and Mr. Bass, on their voyage of discovery in the sloop Norfolk. Mr. Bass, who acted as surgeon to the Reliance, appears to have examined the places at which he touched with a scientific eye; and, after having perused the records of ignorance and depravity, the notices of his progress are peculiarly refreshing.

At *Twofold Bay*, their first anchoring station, the dark luxuriant foliage of the valleys indicated the advantages which they had derived from the hills, whose vegetable earth is washed down their steep sides almost as fast as it is formed:—but the valleys are extremely narrow, and overrun with brushwood and large timber, interwoven by creeping vines, of every size 'between small twine and a seven-inch hawser.' The country along the back of the bay is disposed in rounded stoney hills, scarcely fit for pasturage, but covered with timber and patches of short brushwood. The sloping hills on the eastern side had a pleasing appearance from the bay. By far the greater part of the land, however, around the bay, seems to be unfit for cultivation. The natives resemble those of Port Jackson, but

speak a different language, and use canoes, of which they are very careful.

The huge blocks of granite on *Preservation Island* seem to have overwhelmed Mr. Bass's ordinary powers of explanation, and to have driven him to the supposition of the agency of subterraneous fire: but these *stumbling blocks* very probably formed, at some time, the nuclei of larger masses of a softer texture; which, in obedience to the constantly operating laws of decomposition, have wasted away, and left their more durable kernels completely exposed. Granite itself, though stubborn and refractory, is not immortal; and, after a lapse of ages, *the place which once knew it shall know it no more for ever.*

'The vegetation on the island seems brown and starved. It consists of a few stunted trees; several patches of brush, close set and almost impenetrable; large tufts of sour and wiry grass; and abundance of low saltish plants, chiefly of the creeping kind.'—

'Amid a patch of naked sand, upon one of the highest parts of the island, at not less than 100 feet above the level of the sea, within the limits of a few hundred yards square, were lying scattered about a number of short broken branches of old dead trees, of from one to three inches in diameter, and seemingly of a kind similar to the large brush wood. Amid these broken branches were seen sticking up several white stoney stumps, of sizes ranging between the above diameters, and in height from a foot to a foot and a half. Their peculiar form, together with a number of prongs of their own quality, projecting in different directions from around their base, and entering the ground in the manner of roots, presented themselves to the mind of an observer, with a striking resemblance to the stumps and roots of small trees. These were extremely brittle, the slightest blow with a stick, or with each other, being sufficient to break them short off; and when taken into the hand, many of them broke to pieces with their own weight.

'On being broken transversely, it was immediately seen that the internal part was divided into interior or central, exterior or cortical. The exterior part, which in different specimens occupied various proportions of the whole, resembled a fine white and soft grit-stone; but acids being applied, shewed it to be combined with a considerable portion of calcareous matter. The interior or central part was always circular, but seldom found of the same diameter, or of the same composition, on any two stumps. In some, the calcareous and sandy matter had taken such entire possession, that every fragment of the wood was completely obliterated; but yet a faint central ring remained. In others was a center of chalk, beautifully white, that crumbled between the fingers to the finest powder; some consisted of chalk and brown earth, in various quantities, and some others had retained a few frail portions of their woody fibres, the spaces between which were filled up with chalky earth.

'It appeared that when the people of the Sydney Cove first came upon the island, the pieces of dead branches that at this time were

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lying round the stumps, then formed, with them, the stem and branches of dead trees complete. But by the time Mr. Bass visited the place, the hands of curiosity, and the frolics of an unruly horse that was saved from the wreck, had reduced them to the state already described.

'Mr. Bass had been told from good authority, that when the trees were in a complete state, the diameter of the dead wood of the stem that rose immediately from the stoney part was equal to the diameter of that part; and also that a living leaf was seen upon the uppermost branches of one of them. But he could never learn whether the stoney part of the stem was of an equal height in all the trees.

'To ascertain to what depth the petrification had extended, Mr. Bass scratched away the sand from the foot of many of the stumps, and in no instance found it to have proceeded more than three or four inches beneath the surface of the sand, as it then lay; for at that depth the brown and crumbling remains of the root came into view. There were, indeed, parts of the roots which had undergone an alteration similar to that which had taken place in the stems: but these tended to establish the limits of the petrifying power; for they had felt it only either at their first outset from the bottom of the stems, or when, being obstructed in their progress, they had of necessity arched upwards toward the surface.

'In attempting to account for the cause that had operated to produce this change in the structure of the lower parts of the stems of these trees, Mr. Bass feels the utmost diffidence. He found that all his conjectures which were best supported by existing facts, led him to place them among petrifactions; although no strict analogy could be seen between them and the subjects usually met with of this kind.

'Admitting them, however, as petrifactions, it is certain that there must once have existed a pond in which the petrifying water was contained; but the ground in their neighbourhood retained no positive traces of any such receptacle. There were, indeed, near them, some few lumps or banks consisting of sand, and a little vegetable earth which was held together by dead roots of small trees, and elevated above the rest of the ground, to the height of five, six, or eight feet; but the relative position of these with each other was so confused and irregular, that nothing but the necessity of a once-existing reservoir could ever lead any one to conjecture that these might have been parts of its bank. Mr. Bass, however, rather concluded that this must have been the case, and that the remainder of the bank had been torn away, and the pond itself annihilated by some violent effort of an unknown power.'

Several snakes with poison-fangs were found here; and the water, which was reckoned injurious to health, was supposed to contain arsenic.—*Linquenda tellus.*

The description of *Cape Barren Island* corresponds, in many particulars, with its name:

'It is singular, that a place wherein food seemed to be so scarce should yet be so thickly inhabited by the small brush Kangooroo, and a new quadruped, which was also a grass-eater.

'This animal, being a new one, appears to deserve a particular description. The *Wom bat* (or, as it is called by the natives of Port Jackson, the *Womback*) is a squat, thick, short-legged, and rather inactive quadruped, with great appearance of stumpy strength, and somewhat bigger than a large turnspit dog. Its figure and movements, if they do not exactly resemble those of the bear, at least strongly remind one of that animal.

'Its length, from the tip of the tail to the tip of the nose, is thirty-one inches, of which its body takes up twenty-three and five-tenths. The head is seven inches, and the tail five-tenths. Its circumference behind the fore-legs, twenty-seven inches; across the thickest part of the belly, thirty-one inches. Its weight by hand is somewhat between twenty-five and thirty pounds. The hair is coarse, and about one inch or one inch and five tenths in length, thinly set upon the belly, thicker on the back and head, and thickest upon the loins and rump; the colour of it a light sandy brown, of varying shades, but darkest along the back.

'The head is large and flattish, and, when looking the animal full in the face, seems, excluding the ears, to form nearly an equilateral triangle, any side of which is about seven inches and five tenths in length, but the upper side, or that which constitutes the breadth of the head, is rather the shortest. The hair upon the face lies in regular order, as if it were combed, with its ends pointed upwards in a kind of radii, from the nose their centre.

'The ears are sharp and erect, of two inches and three-tenths in length, stand well asunder, and are in no wise disproportionate. The eyes are small, and rather sunken than prominent, but quick and lively. They are placed about two inches and five tenths asunder, a little below the centre of the imaginary triangle towards the nose. The nice co-adaptation of their ciliary processes, which are covered with a fine hair, seems to afford the animal an extraordinary power of excluding whatever might be hurtful.

'The nose is large or spreading, the nostrils large, long, and capable of being closed. They stand angularly with each other, and a channel is continued from them towards the upper lip, which is divided like the hare's. The whiskers are rather thick and strong, and are in length from two to three inches and five tenths.

'The opening of its mouth is small; it contains five long grass-cutting teeth in the front of each jaw, like those of the Kangooroo; within them is a vacancy for an inch or more, then appear two small canine teeth of equal height with, and so much similar to, eight molares situated behind, as scarcely to be distinguishable from them. The whole number in both jaws amount to twenty-four.

'The neck is thick and short, and greatly restrains the motions of the head, which, according to the common expression, looks as if it was stuck upon the shoulders.

'From the neck, the back arches a little as far as the loins, whence it goes off at a flat slope to the hindmost parts, where not any tail is visible. A tail, however, may be found by carefully passing the finger over the flat slope in a line with the back bone. After separating the hairs, it is seen of some five tenths of an inch in length, and

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from three to one tenth of an inch in diameter, naked, except for a few short fine hairs near its end. This curious tail seemed to hold a much bolder proportion in the young than in the full-grown animal.

'The fore legs are very strong and muscular: their length, to the sole of the paw, is five inches five tenths, and the distance between them is five inches and five tenths. The paws are fleshy, round, and large, being one inch and nine tenths in diameter. Their claws are five in number, attached to as many short digitations. The three middle claws are strong, and about eight or nine tenths of an inch in length; the thumb and little finger claws are also strong, but shorter than the others, being only from six to seven tenths of an inch. The fleshy root of the thumb claw is smaller and more flexible than the others. The sole of the paw is hard, and the upper part is covered with the common hair, down to the roots of the claws which it overhangs. The hind legs are less strong and muscular than the fore; their length, to the sole, is five inches and five tenths; the distance between, seven inches and five tenths. The hind paw is longer than the fore, but not less fleshy; its length is two inches and seven tenths, its breadth two inches and six tenths. The claws are four in number: the three inner ones are less strong, but about two tenths of an inch longer than the longest of the fore claws; and there is a fleshy spur in the place of a thumb claw. The whole paw has a curve, which throws its fore part rather inward.

'In size the two sexes are nearly the same, but the female is perhaps rather the heaviest.

'In the opinion of Mr. Bass, this Wom-bat seemed to be very œconomically made; but he thought it unnecessary to give an account of its internal structure in his journal.

'This animal has not any claim to swiftness of foot, as most men could run it down. Its pace is hobbling or shuffling, something like the awkward gait of a bear. In disposition it is mild and gentle, as becomes a grass-eater; but it bites hard, and is furious when provoked. Mr. Bass never heard its voice but at that time: it was a low cry, between a hissing and a whizzing, which could not be heard at a distance of more than thirty or forty yards. He chased one, and with his hands under his belly suddenly lifted him off the ground without hurting him, and laid him upon his back along his arm, like a child. It made no noise, nor any effort to escape, not even a struggle. Its countenance was placid and undisturbed, and it seemed as contented as if it had been nursed by Mr. Bass* from its infancy. He carried the beast upwards of a mile, and often shifted him from arm to arm, sometimes laying him upon his shoulder, all of which he took in good part; until, being obliged to secure his legs while he went into the brush to cut a specimen of a new wood, the creature's anger arose with the pinching of the twine; he whizzed with all his might, kicked and scratched most furiously, and snapped off a piece from the elbow of Mr. Bass's jacket with his grass-cutting teeth. Their friendship was here at an end, and the creature remained implacable all the way to the boat, ceasing to kick only when he was exhausted.

'* The Kangooroo, and some other animals in New South Wales, were remarkable for being domesticated as soon as taken.'

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'This circumstance seemed to indicate, that with kind treatment the Wom-bat might soon be rendered extremely docile, and probably affectionate; but let his tutor beware of giving him provocation, at least if he should be full grown.

'Besides Furneaux's Islands, the Wom-bat inhabits, as has been seen, the mountains to the westward of Port Jackson. In both these places its habitation is under ground, being admirably formed for burrowing, but to what depth it descends does not seem to be ascertained. According to the account given of it by the natives, the Wom-bat of the mountains is never seen during the day, but lives retired in his hole, feeding only in the night; but that of the islands is seen to feed in all parts of the day. His food is not yet well known; but it seems probable that he varies it, according to the situation in which he may be placed. The stomachs of such as Mr. Bass examined were distended with the coarse wiry grass, and he, as well as others, had seen the animal scratching among the dry ricks of sea-weed thrown up upon the shores, but could never discover what it was in search of. Now the inhabitant of the mountains can have no recourse to the sea-shore for his food, nor can he find there any wiry grass of the islands, but must live upon the food that circumstances present to him.'

Leaving the *Swan Isles*, (on which our voyagers found *geese*, but not a single *swan*,) they steered to the westward, along shore, for Van Diemen's land.—The quality of the ground about *Port Dalrymple* was superior to most which had been examined on the borders of any of the salt-water inlets of New South Wales, Western Port excepted. 'Some parts that were low and level had a wet and peat-like surface, bounded by small tracts of flowering shrubs and odoriferous plants, that perfumed the air with the fragrance of their oils*. These retained in general the appearance of those in New South Wales, while they were in reality very different. The rich and vivid colouring of the more northern flowers, and that soft and exquisite gradation of their tints, for which they are so singularly distinguished, hold with those here, but in a less eminent degree. The two countries present a perfect similarity in this, that the more barren spots are the most gaily adorned. The curious florist, and scientific botanist, would find ample subject of exultation in their different researches in Port Dalrymple.'

The heavy timber consists chiefly of gum tree, of various species. Many aquatic birds frequent the arms and coves of the river, but the black swans alone are remarkable in point of number. 'Mr. Bass once made a rough calculation of 300 swimming within the space of a quarter of a mile square; and heard the *dying song* of some scores; that song, so celebrated

'* In this particular, they differ from the flowering shrubs of New South Wales; none, or very few, of which were ever found, beautiful as they were in other respects, to possess the smallest odour.'

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by the poets of former times, exactly resembled the creaking of a rusty sign on a windy day!'—The extreme shyness of the inhabitants prevented any communication: but, from several traces of their modes of life, it was conjectured that, in the scale of *civilization*, they are inferior even to the despised natives of the continent.

Our limits will not permit us to pursue more closely the novel track of these interesting navigators. The Governor named the principal discovery of the voyage *Bass Strait*, 'as a tribute due to the correctness of judgment which led Mr. Bass, in his first visit in the whale-boat, to suppose that the south-westerly winds which rolled in upon the shores of Western Port, could proceed only from their being exposed to the southern Indian ocean.'

On resuming the author's own narrative, we find that February was distinguished by robberies, executions, and the wilful burning of the log-prison at Sydney. The prison at Parramatta underwent the same fate, about the end of the year. In June, the picture of affairs was certainly not more flattering: a violent tempest arose; and

'The ravages of this storm were so great, that the settlement was thrown back nearly twelve months in those works which at the time were expected very shortly to be completed. The weather, from the beginning of this month, had never since the establishment of the colony been observed to be so severe. The settlement had indeed, between the fires of the summer, and the floods and gales of the winter, suffered very considerably. Added to these, at this time, were the inconveniences arising from an unproductive harvest, from an exhausted store in the very essential articles of clothing and bedding, from the hostile disposition of many of the natives, and from the annihilation of morality, honesty, and industry, in the major part of the colonists.'

On the 8th of July, Mr. Flinders again sailed in the Norfolk sloop, on a voyage to the northward. In the course of this trip, he had some unpleasant rencontres with the natives; and he also consigned to his journal many remarks which our nautical readers will peruse with attention,—the more so, as they do not altogether coincide with those of Captain Cook.

The following year (1800) presents us with few occurrences of moment, besides the repetition of crimes and of distressing accidents. One or two passages, however, deserve to be excepted from this remark:

'Captain Waterhouse, in an excursion which he made to the north arm of Broken Bay, wounded and secured a bird, of a species never seen before in New South Wales, at least by any of the colonists. It was a large eagle, which gave a proof of his strength, by driving his talons through a man's foot, while lying in the bottom of the boat, with his legs tied together. It stood about three feet in height, and during

during the ten days that it lived with them was remarkable for refusing to be fed by any but one particular person. Among the natives it was an object of wonder and fear, as they could never be prevailed on to go near it. They asserted, that it would carry off a middle-sized Kangooroo. Captain Waterhouse hoped to have brought it to England; but it was one morning found to have divided the strands of a rope with which it was fastened, and escaped.'

Colonel C.'s regular narrative terminates on the 1st of October, when Governor Hunter took leave of the settlement. A few abstracts and notices are subjoined, which will prove gratifying to those who take any particular interest in the fate of this remote and cheerless establishment.

On the 30th of June 1801, the total of persons under the authority of the Governor amounted to six thousand five hundred and eight. The live stock belonging to individuals consisted of 6269 sheep, 362 head of cattle, 211 horses, 1259 goats, and 4766 hogs. In August 1801, there belonged to government 488 sheep, 931 head of cattle, and 32 horses. Of ground in cultivation, individuals possessed 4857½ acres of wheat, and 3564 acres of maize. Government, at the same time, had 467 acres of wheat, and 300 acres of maize.

It is almost superfluous to observe, that the author has strictly adhered to the use of plain language in detailing plain matters of fact; and that his subject was little susceptible of variety or embellishment. The chart of the settlements, and nine plates, form no trivial addition to this part of his work.

'With this information, (says Col. C.) I must here conclude my labours; and as the annalist of the English Colony in New South Wales, probably take my leave forever of that country, in whose service I spent the first nine years of its infancy, during all the difficulties and hardships with which, in that rude state, it had to contend: a country which has eventually proved the destruction of my brightest prospects; having, by my services there, been precluded from succeeding to my proper situation in the professional line to which I was bred; without any other reward as yet to boast of, than the conciousness of having ever been a faithful and zealous servant to my employers, and knowing that the peculiar hardship of my case has been acknowledged by every gentleman, in and out of office, to whom it has been communicated.'

May the present dispensers of public favours bestow, on this modest and affecting hint, the attention which it merits!

Muir...d—

ART.

ART. II. *A Synopsis of the British Fuci.* By Dawson Turner, A. M., Member of the Imperial Academy Naturæ Curiosorum, of the Linnæan Society of London, and of the Physical Society of Göttingen. 2 Vols. 12mo. 8s. 6d. sewed. White. 1802.

OUR insular situation, and the possession of the Linnéan Herbarium, are circumstances peculiarly favourable to the prosecution of marine botany in this country. The ignorant, the cynical, or the sordid, may triumphantly exclaim *cui bono?* but no gentleman of competent information needs now to be told that the subject, perplexing and difficult as it may appear, is far from being barren of utility and instruction. The *projecta vilior alga* has now lost the force of its application; since several of the submersed species have been discovered to possess properties directly useful to the purposes of life; others, no doubt, will be found to serve important and beneficial ends; and the structure, growth, habits, and decay of all will reveal to the curious cryptogamist a new series of varieties in vegetable physiology.

The author of these volumes has, therefore, rendered an essential service to the public by exhibiting, in a commodious and distinct form, all that is at present known concerning the British Fuci. This knowlege, however limited, lay scattered in large and costly publications; in the Transactions of learned societies, in Gmelin's *Historia Fucorum*, Gunner's *Flora Norvegica*, the *Flora Danica*, &c. but, especially, in the recent and splendid delineations of Stackhouse, Velley, and Esper.

Mr. Turner has uniformly, and in the most respectful manner, availed himself of the first authorities; and, when he feels himself compelled to dissent from them, it is always with diffidence and regret. While aware of the defects in the present botanical distribution of the submersed algæ, he prudently forbears from laying down another, because an arrangement founded solely on the British species cannot be presumed to be perfect; and when any important innovation is proposed, it is desirable that it should rest on stable principles.

'On this subject,' says he, 'I will offer the single hint, that the submersed algæ, with the addition, perhaps, of the Byssi and Tremellæ, ought to form a distinct order of the Class Cryptogamia; and that, in a new arrangement, the first step must be to throw them into a general mass, paying no respect to the genera as they now exist, all of which comprize plants of the most anomalous nature, many Confervæ having the fruit of Fuci, some Fuci that of Ulvæ, and vice versâ. I might be tempted here to enter in some measure upon a slight digression respecting the remaining aquatic genera, were not the Confervæ already in the hands of Professor Mertens and Mr. Dillwyn, who will soon favour the world with their observations

on

on the subject; and did I not wish to reserve what I have to say upon the Ulvæ till it is in my power to publish a history of them; materials for which I have been sometime engaged in collecting.'

Without taking a very decided part in the much agitated question concerning the destination of the root of Fuci, Mr. T. seems inclined to believe, that it may be subservient at once to the nourishment and mechanical fixture of the stem:

'One of the most remarkable circumstances attending the physiology of the Fuci is the extreme rapidity of their growth and decay; a singular instance of which I had an opportunity of observing when, in July 1798, I visited the rocks at Cromer, and found them almost exclusively covered with Ulva filiformis, (Hudson,) of which, in the following September, not a trace remained: but this, if we consider the gelatinous substance of the plant, is not perhaps wonderful. Ulva plumosa and fistulosa, together with F. filum, dasyphyllus, and confervoides, had then occupied its place; some whereof being at that time new to me, I returned about two months afterwards to procure a fresh supply, when, of them all, nothing but a few broken pieces of the last remained to prove their ever having existed; and they had been succeeded by F. vesiculosus and Ulva umbilicalis. Mr. Dillwyn, during his residence at Dover, observed several instances of the same nature; and the fresh-water Confervæ partake of this fugitive quality; for often, where I have known ditches filled with particular species, I have returned after a short interval, and found not even a vestige of them left.'—

'Another remarkable circumstance attending the Fuci, for which it is not easy to account on philosophical principles, is the great diversity of species, produced by different places, even though but little removed from each other. Among phænogamous plants we know that Malvæ, Urticæ, Lamia, the more common grasses, &c. are predominant in almost every part of our island; but the same is far from being the case in the submersed algæ; for of those which are abundant at Yarmouth, some have never been found at Scarborough, others never at Dover; and those shores in return produce a different tribe, whereof many have not at present been discovered in Norfolk. To carry this observation a little farther, I may add that the same holds good in the Isle of Wight, Weymouth, and Cornwall, and even those individuals that are common to several parts of our island appear in distant places under such various forms, that the collecting them is almost equally interesting as if they were distinct species. Some not only flourish most on, but seem peculiar to, chalk; some to sand stone; some to hard, siliceous rocks: a remarkable instance whereof is afforded by Sheringham, a small village on the Norfolk coast, which, though not more than four miles distant from Cromer, yet, from its soil being quite different, produces different Fuci. This also seems to shew that the root of these plants is not without its use as an organ of nutrition.'

The corollary which concludes this extract is fairly deduced: but we confess that the premises do not strike us as forming a greater

greater singularity, than that one class of lichens should affect calcareous and another granite rocks; that the appearance of *Erica vagans* should indicate the presence of magnesian soil; or, that a change in the agricultural distribution of the same field should occasion a difference in its spontaneous productions.

To his Introduction, Mr. Turner has subjoined a *Synopsis Specierum*, comprising the botanical characters of the 78 species detailed in the sequel. The subdivisions are mostly those which Dr. Goodenough and Mr. Woodward have laid down in their excellent paper inserted in the third volume of the Linnéan Transactions. The title of *fronde enervi*, however, has been substituted for that of *fronde avenii*, because the microscope has revealed a curious system of veins in *F. laceratus*, and the absence of a mid-rib is a character sufficiently obvious. The circumstance of the channelled frond (*fronde hinc canaliculatâ*) has been omitted, because it is seldom observed in the dried and pressed specimens from which too many botanists hastily form their judgment.

A convenient Index to the Latin names and synonyms precedes the detailed synopsis: for we use this last term in compliance with the author's modest title, though we regard his performance as a more accurate and comprehensive history of Fuci than any that has yet appeared. Each species is introduced by its botanical name; the characters, synonyms, references, varieties, and minute appropriate descriptions, follow in course. To these are subjoined many valuable remarks of a critical, physiological, and economical nature.

As an exemplification of Mr. T.'s plan and manner, we transcribe the article *Siliquosus*, which accidentally presents itself:

'FUCUS SILIQUOSUS.

'F. fronde compressâ *ramosâ*; foliis distichis alternis integerrimis; vesiculis pedunculatis oblongis cavis; siliquis lanceolatis solidis.—Herb. Linn.—Buddle, p. 15. n. 1.—Uvedale, p. 1. n. 2. and p. 5. n. 1. 2.—Buddle and Vernon, without fructification, p 22. n. 3.—Gmelin, p. 81. t. 2. B.—Esp. p. 27. t. 8.—Fl. Dan. t. 106.—Ner. Brit. p. 8. t. 5.—E. B. t. 474.—Act. Paris. 1772, partie 2de pl. 4. f. 22. l. m. n. o. p. q. in fructification;—the root, f. 20. 21.—Micheli's Marine Plants, t. 22.—Linn. Sp. Pl. p. 1629.—Linn. Trans. iii. p. 124.—Fl. Ang. p. 574.—Fl. Scot. p. 921.—Fl. Fr. i. p. 96.—Fl. Suec. p. 431.—Fl. Lapp. p. 365.—Fl. Norv. i. p. 83.—With. iv. p. 88.

Fucus angustifolius, vesiculis longis siliquarum æmulis.—R. Syn. p. 48. n. 38.—Moris. Hist. Ox. p. 647. n. 7.

β. minor; fronde vix dodrantali.

Fucus siliculosus.—Ner. Brit. p. 42. t. 11.

α is common upon the shores of England, Wales, and Scotland: β was found by Mr. Stackhouse near Fowey, in Cornwall.

Rom.

Perennial—November—March.

'Root an expanded disk; in perfect plants always cone-shaped, common to three or four coriaceous fronds, from one to four feet long, very smooth, first rising in the form of simple, flat, linear, mid-ribbed leaves, entire at their margins, and about two lines wide: at the height of an inch or less, these become pinnated with others similar to themselves, in an alternate, distichous series, and perforated with minute punctures. As the plant advances in age, the primary leaves thicken into compressed, solid stems and branches, beset on each side with alternate, pedunculate, oblong vesicles, of various length, on the same specimen from half an inch to three inches, transversely furrowed without, and hollow within, except that they are divided into compartments by from four to twenty septa, answering to the external furrows, each about two lines distant from the other, of a pulpy and transparent nature, but apparently not composed of the nerve of the leaves, as has been suggested; since that still remains, and runs, longitudinally, through them, in the form of a few thin, parallel, colourless, rarely anastomosing, fibres: the vesicles are generally terminated by a mucronated point, thin and solid, with no appearance either of joints or midrib; sometimes extending to an inch or more in length, and occasionally, though rarely, containing the seeds; the proper place for which is in shortly pedunculated siliquæ, whereof two or three are found at the end of almost every branch, of an oblongo-lanceolate form, compressed, and full of a parenchymous matter, among which the seeds lie in round or oval clusters, about thirty in each, situated in a circle round a minute perforation, whence they escape when they become ripe, before which time, it is closed, and appears only a dark spot. The colour is an olive-green, soon changing to black: substance coriaceous, and very tough, but flexible: branches are very seldom, if ever, found so perfect as not to have lost some of their vesicles; the peduncles of which remaining, give the plant a thorny appearance.

'β differs in the smaller size of all its parts, and in its frond being not more than nine inches long.

'The list of references subjoined to the specific character of this Fucus sufficiently demonstrates that scarcely any species is more generally found upon those shores of the world which have been explored by the votaries of botany; fortunately, too, scarcely any is more readily distinguished, and scarcely any subject to less variation of appearance. Mr. Stackhouse's F. siliculosus, which alone I have considered deserving notice as a distinct variety, is remarkable for its dwarfish size, its bushy habit, and the comparative smallness of all its parts; except which, I can see no trace of difference, for the roots, leaves, and mode of fructification agree with F. siliquosus; and, though it seems to have escaped the observation of the author of the Nereis, I find, upon dissecting the vesicles of a specimen given me by himself, that they are hollow within, and divided into compartments in a similar manner to those of that species. It is these which separate the present plant so clearly from every other, and which are evidently designed to serve the purpose of air-bladders, for keeping the frond in a state of buoyancy, though, for a long time, they were

considered the seat of the fructification; and botanists, comparing them to the pods of beans, expected, from analogy, to find the seeds within them. Many, even of the most accurate, were deceived by this conjecture; but, of the few that were not so, the indefatigable Micheli deserves particular mention; as it is but little known that, in a very scarce collection of admirable plates of marine plants and zoophytes, published by him, there is a figure of the present species, with its fructification completely delineated. It was long after the publication of F. siliquosus in E. B., that Mr. Stackhouse and myself, by mere accident, met with this work in Sir Joseph Bank's library, where, I believe, the only copy known to be in England is preserved; except one in the possession of Dr. Smith, which, through his friendship, is now before me. There is no letter-press; not even the name of each accompanies the figures, to which I have, nevertheless, sometimes referred, as they are so excellent, that if any botanist would undertake the re publication of them, he would do a real service to science. I am, however, wandering from my subject, upon which I have only to add, that I have a specimen of this plant given me by Mr. Bryer, of Weymouth, so singular, that it is sufficient to puzzle even an experienced observer; and, if often found so, deserves particular notice: it is, apparently, the side-shoot of a larger plant, but extends above a foot in length, composed of a very narrow, compressed stem, and long, thin, flat leaves, but little divided, without any appearance of their any where swelling into vesicles, or pods; scarcely half a line broad, and of almost the same breadth throughout all its parts. It is, I presume, to a somewhat similar appearance, that Messrs. Goodenough and Woodward refer in their observation, that "they have seen large plants of this Fucus thrown up without any approaches to fructification."—F. siliculosus Linn. of which, there are specimens in his Herbarium, is nearly related to this Fucus, but perfectly distinct, and unlike any other I ever saw.'

For the gratification of such of our botanical readers as may not see the work, we shall likewise insert the author's account of an addition to the catalogue of British Fuci:

'FUCUS FASCIA.

'F. fronde sub-coriaceâ simplici lineari utrinque attenuatâ undulatâ integrâ exstipitatâ.—Fl. Dan. t. 768.—Roth, Fl. Germ. iii. p. 449.—Roth, Cat. Bot. fasc. ii. p. 161.

On the north coast of Ireland, Mr. Browne.

Annual?

'Root a small, blackish disk, destitute of any tendency to become fibrous; fronds numerous, four or five inches long, and in their centers about four lines wide; so extremely narrow as to be almost filiform at the base, whence they gradually dilate, till they acquire a size which they preserve throughout, except that, on their approach to the summit, they again decrease, and end in sharp, acuminated apices. They have no appearance, even in the largest specimens, of any stipes of a different substance or form to the rest of the plant. The margins are every where quite entire; the frond exhibits in no part any symptoms of either veins or midrib; in habit it is much undulated,

and not unfrequently twisted in a spiral manner. Young shoots are of a greenish colour, and a membranaceous substance; those more advanced are coriaceous, and of a dark, dull; sub-opaque brown. The fructification, according to Dr. Roth, consists of small vesicles, immersed in the substance of the frond, scattered, but plentiful, marked on their surface with elevated mucifluous warts.

'A very considerable part of the preceding description is borrowed from Dr. Roth's admirable Flora Germanica, wherein is contained the only good account hitherto published of this rare Fucus, which that author and his friend Professor Mertens gathered abundantly near Eckwarden in Germany. It was first made known to the botanical world in the Flora Danica, and I have now the pleasure of adding it to the British Catalogue, on the authority of specimens collected on the north coast of Ireland by Mr. Browne, and obligingly communicated to me by that gentleman. He indeed considered, and had marked it an Ulva, to which genus, both from its texture and habit, there can be little doubt of its really belonging; though, never having myself seen it in a state of fructification, I think it best to leave it for the present in the situation where such excellent judges as Œder and Roth have placed it. The following is the species with which it has by far the closest affinity; but its smaller size and thicker substance, as well as its undulated mode of growth and want of stipes will distinguish it satisfactorily at first sight, and there is no other in the British Catalogue from which the specific character is not sufficient immediately to point out the difference. It must indeed be allowed that in habit and shape its connection is extremely great with Ulva compressa of Hudson, at least that variety of it made, in the Catalecta Botanica, a distinct species under the name of U. lanceolata; but the colour and texture of the two plants is very dissimilar, and, were any other mark wanting, it would only require to be observed that, though in general apparently flat, the leaf of U. lanceolata is in reality always tubular, and, by tearing off the lower part, and applying it to the mouth, will admit of distention like a bladder.'

Fucus natans, so very abundant in some foreign seas, is put down as a doubtful British native, and suggests some very ingenious and interesting remarks, which their length alone prevents us from quoting.

Fucus granulatus of Dr. Goodenough and Mr. Woodward is rejected, on the supposition that it is only a variety of *barbatus*, and that the real *granulatus* is not a native of England. The *sedoides* of the same authors is considered as not differing from the *ovalis*.

'It is with extreme regret,' says Mr. T., 'that I differ from the learned and worthy authors of *Observations upon the British Fuci*, with regard to this beautiful species; and I beg it to be understood, that, though I adopt the opinion which my own observations on its place of growth, and all the specimens I have hitherto had an opportunity of examining, confirm, I submit my sentiments to the decision of those who

who are better judges than myself, with all due humility; by no means looking upon it as impossible, or even improbable, that a more enlarged view of the subject may induce me to alter them. At the same time, for my own justification, it is to be observed, that, in considering *F. sedoides* and *ovalis* the same, I tread in the steps of Mr. Hudson, whose acquaintance with the marine algæ was, unquestionably, so extensive, that the loss sustained by this branch of botany, from the destruction of his Herbarium, cannot be sufficiently lamented.'

The mention of this loss reminds us that dried specimens of sea-plants, though they may often mislead the incautious observer, are of real service to the experienced botanist. For this reason, we could have welcomed a few preliminary directions concerning the most approved methods of preparing them. In the event of a second edition, we would moreover recommend the insertion of the English names, for the accommodation of those who are unacquainted with the Latin language.

We cannot close this article without observing, that Mr. Turner's very intimate acquaintance with his subject, his diligence and patience of research, his happy talent for nice discrimination, and a degree of candour which has been rarely equalled, (never, we believe, surpassed in any piece of systematic writing,) lead us to form the highest expectations of the more extensive work on which he is engaged.

Muir...a.

ART. III. *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border:* Consisting of Historical and Romantic Ballads, collected in the Southern Counties of Scotland; with a few of modern Date, founded upon local Tradition. 8vo. 2 Vols. 18s. Boards, or on fine Paper, 1l. 1s. Printed at Kelso, and sold in London by Cadell and Davies. 1802.

THE dedication of these volumes to the Duke of Buccleuch is subscribed *Walter Scott;* and we have been informed that this gentleman belongs to the Faculty of Advocates at Edinburgh, and is Deputy Sheriff of the county of Selkirk. The honours which he has bestowed on the rude lays of his marauding ancestors are, a handsome frontispiece, fine cream-coloured paper, the beautiful and recent type of a *border* press, a learned and polished introduction consisting of 110 pages, five numbers of appendix, and a laudable munificence of notes and commentaries. The public are also informed that Mr. Jamieson of Macclesfield is engaged in preparing another collection of Scottish ballads; and a third volume of the present work, here announced, has since appeared.

It is now in vain to allege that the illustration of the peculiarities of border manners, as they modified the feudal spirit of

the times, required not much expenditure of time or paper; or to express a wish that a few of the sweetest of the songs here exhibited had been comprized in a small volume, the editor's own poetical contributions and those of his friends in another, and that his minute discussions had been reserved for the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, or for separate dissertations. Some such distribution of his motley materials would, indeed, have better accommodated the general taste:—but it was decreed that Mr. Scott should publish these volumes, and that Reviewers should be doomed to read them.

In Racine's *Plaideurs*, an *avocat*, when called to state the case of damage sustained by a capon having trespassed on a neighbour's field, begins his pleading by the words—*Avant la création du monde;* when the judge, somewhat alarmed, requests that he would, at least, *pass to the deluge.* Mr. S. is not quite so unconscionable as Racine's *avocat;* though, by taking his departure from the God Terminus and the Emperor Severus, who were not particularly related to the *outlaw Murray* or *Johnie Armstrang*, he seems to think that a liberal latitude of chronology gives *éclat* to the commencement of a grand performance. From these Roman worthies, the editor deduces, through many modish pages, the history of the border districts, to the accession of James to the English crown.

A review of family feuds and barbarous inroads, though penned with elegance, can convey little of either instruction or pleasure to the bulk of readers. It may, however, be proper to remark, that the conterminous inhabitants of the two hostile nations not unfrequently cherished romantic sentiments of honour; and that humanity sometimes gilded with her mild beams the scenes of lawless outrage and devastation. The following trait beautifully illustrates this observation:

'The Earl [Douglas], grown old in exile, longed once more to see his native country, and vowed, that upon St. Magdalen's day, 1483, he would deposit his offering on the high altar at Lochmaben. Accompanied by the banished Earl of ALBANY, with his usual ill fortune, he entered Scotland. The borderers assembled to oppose him, and he suffered a final defeat at Burnswark, in Dumfries-shire. The aged Earl was taken in the fight, by a son of *Kirkpatrick* of Closeburn, one of his own vassals. A grant of lands had been offered for his person: *Carry me to the King*, said *Douglas* to *Kirkpatrick: thou art well entitled to profit by my misfortune, for thou wast true to me, while I was true to myself.* The young man wept bitterly, and offered to fly with the Earl into England. But *Douglas*, weary of exile, refused his proffered liberty, and only requested, that *Kirkpatrick* would not deliver him to the King till he had secured his own reward. *Kirkpatrick* did more: he stipulated for the personal safety of his old master. His generous intercession prevailed; and the last

of the *Douglasses* was permitted to die, in monastic seclusion, in the Abbey of Lindores.'

The historical ballads, which occupy the first volume, have either a pointed reference to real events, or have at least their foundation in the Scottish records. The exploits or the death of the heroes of the day were celebrated in the popular rhymes of the sixteenth century. Part of these rude compositions, it may fairly be presumed, has perished; part has been imperfectly transmitted by tradition; and a few have been, in some measure, preserved in writing. The shepherds and the pipers of the border hills appear to have been the depositaries of the traditionary songs. 'JOHN GRÆME, of Sowport, in Cumberland, commonly called *the Long Quaker*, a person of this latter description, is still alive; and several of the songs, now published, have been taken down from his recitation *.'

From such sources, the editor, in his early youth, collected most of his materials: but he tells us that

'He has been enabled, in many instances, to supply and correct the deficiencies of his own copies, from a collection of border songs, frequently referred to in the work, under the title of *Glenriddell's MS.* This was compiled from various sources by the late Mr. RIDDELL, of Glenriddell, a sedulous border antiquary; and, since his death, has become the property of Mr. JOLLIE, bookseller at Carlisle; to whose liberality the editor owes the use of it while preparing this work for the press. No liberties have been taken either with the recited or written copies of these ballads, farther than that, where they disagreed, the editor, in justice to the author, has uniformly preserved what seemed to him the best or most poetical reading of the passage. Such discrepancies must very frequently occur, wherever poetry is preserved by oral tradition; for the reciter, making it an uniform principle to proceed at all hazards, is very often, when his memory fails him, apt to substitute large portions from some other tale, altogether distinct from that which he has commenced. Besides, the prejudices of clans and of districts have occasioned variations in the mode of telling the same story. Some arrangement was also occasionally necessary to recover the rhyme, which was often, by the ignorance of the reciters, transposed, or thrown into the middle of the line. With these freedoms, which were essentially necessary to

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'* This person is perhaps the last of our professed ballad reciters, and is now upwards of eighty years of age. He was by profession an itinerant cleaner of clocks and watches: but a stentorian voice, and a most tenacious memory, qualified him eminently for remembering accurately, and reciting with energy, the border gathering songs and tales of war. His memory is now much impaired by age; yet the number of verses which he can still pour forth, and the animation of his tone and gestures, form a most extraordinary contrast to his extreme feebleness of person, and dotage of mind.'

remove obvious corruptions, and fit the ballads for the press, the editor presents them to the public, under the complete assurance, that they carry with them the most indisputable marks of their authenticity.'

From these concessions, which are sufficiently candid, it is obvious that we cannot rely on the *absolute* integrity of any of the historical ballads, though some of them may approach nearer to their original structure than others. The editor mourns for the loss of compositions 'of such interest and antiquity,' *and refuses to be comforted, because they are not:* but really, unless the missing stanzas savoured less strongly of Sternhold and Hopkins than the solitary one to which he appeals, he must excuse us for withholding our compliments of condolence:

" Edinburgh castle, town, and toure,
God grant thou sink for sinne!
And that even for the black dinoure,
Erl Douglas gat therein."

The romantic ballads, which fill by far the largest portion of the second volume, being founded in legendary tales or marvellous adventures, had a less local range than the war or *raid* songs; and they have, consequently, been collected from various sources, particularly from a MS. communicated by Mrs. Brown of Falkland. In general, they have a more wild and pathetic complexion than those of the first class: but many of them appear to be degraded recitations of old metrical romances;

'The third class of ballads are announced to the public, as *Modern Imitations* of the ancient style of composition, in that department of poetry; and they are founded upon such traditions, as we may suppose in the elder times would have employed the harps of the minstrels. This kind of poetry has been supposed capable of uniting the vigorous numbers and wild fiction which occasionally charm us in the ancient ballad, with a greater equality of versification, and elegance of sentiment, than we can expect to find in the works of a rude age. But upon my ideas of the nature and difficulty of such imitations, I ought in prudence to be silent; *lest* I resemble the dwarf, who brought with him a standard to measure his own stature.'

They who are conversant in the history of Scottish poetry, and who have perused the present publication with the attention which we have done, will readily admit that the editor has given an undue and unnecessary extension to the term *minstrelsy*; that many of the articles in his collection bear no particular relation to his title; that a whole has sometimes been eked out of various materials; and that, in several instances, the language appears to have been arbitrarily softened,

or

or the poems composed at a period not very remote from the present. The accidental recovery of a strayed couplet, or two, will not always justify the republication of verses which have ceased to charm, when the event which they commemorate is forgotten, and the taste of the age calls for models more correct and refined. Of none of the supposed antient pieces, do we learn the names of the authors; and, as Mr. S. has devoted much of his time and attention to the investigation of the history of border poetry, we may infer that the names are not now to be obtained. As the editor discovered that the three beautiful stanzas, intitled the *Flowers of the Forest*, were the production of a lady of family in Roxburghshire, we are sorry that he has omitted the name. Of the second part of the same poem, we have this interesting notice:

'The following verses, adapted to the ancient air of the *Flowers of the Forest*, are, like the elegy which precedes them, the production of a lady. The late Mrs. *Cockburn*, daughter of *Rutherford* of Fairnalie, in Selkirkshire, and relict of Mr *Cockburn* of Ormiston (whose father was Lord Chief Justice Clerk of Scotland), was the authoress. Mrs. *Cockburn* has been dead but a few years. Even at an age advanced beyond the usual bounds of humanity, she retained a play of imagination, and an activity of intellect, which must have been attractive and delightful in youth, but was almost præternatural at her period of life. Her active benevolence, keeping pace with her genius, rendered her equally an object of love and admiration. The editor, who knew her well, takes this opportunity of doing justice to his own feelings; and they are in unison with those of all who knew his regretted friend.'

Though Mr. S. has added two stanzas to the *Souters of Selkirk*, he has not specified the steps by which he was led to the discovery. It is somewhat singular that *shoon* in the first stanza should be converted into *sheen* in the second. The latter pronunciation, we have been told, still prevails among the vulgar in Aberdeenshire:—but were *both* forms of the word ever current in the southern counties of Scotland?

We have compared the anecdote mentioned by Spottiswoode with *the Laird of Ochiltree*, a ballad which has been so often published: but we do not perceive that intimate coincidence between them, which would induce us to believe that the former had suggested the latter.

In most of the older Scottish songs, whether of a serious or a playful cast, which have come under our observation, we have remarked two circumstances which chiefly contribute to their value:—namely, a rapidity of relation which hurries us into the midst of the principal transactions, without regard to incidents subordinate and collateral,—and the dramatic effect

which

which is produced by exhibiting the parties as speakers in the scene. Various examples of both these striking characteristics occur in these volumes; and a few instances will also be found of the true pathetic, expressed in language the most simple and appropriate. Thus *Armstrang* takes an affectionate leave of his castle:

"Farewell! my bonny Gilnock-hall,
Where on Eske side thou standest stout!
Gif I had lived but seven years mair,
I wad hae gilt thee round about."

The description of a young hunter asleep, who was shortly to be murdered, is also conveyed in artless and touching language:

"As I came down by Merriemass,
And down amang the scroggs *,
The bonniest Childe that ever I saw,
Lay sleeping amang his dogs.

"The shirt that was upon his back,
Was o' the holland fine;
The doublet which was over that,
Was o' the lincome twine.

"The buttons that were on his sleeve,
Were o' the gowd sae gude;
The gude graie hounds he lay amang,
Their mouths were dyed wi' blude."

As a specimen of the simple and moving strains of the romantic class, we select *Annan Water*, which may be new to many of our readers, and is introduced by an interesting extract from the correspondence of a highly respectable writer:

'ANNAN WATER.

'NEVER BEFORE PUBLISHED.

'The following verses are the original words of the tune of "*Allan Water*," by which name the song is mentioned in RAMSAY'S *Tea-Table Miscellany*. The ballad is given from tradition; and it is said that a bridge, over the Annan, was built in consequence of the melancholy catastrophe which it narrates. By the *Gatehope Slack*, is perhaps meant the *Gate slack*, a pass in Annandale. The Annan, and the Frith of Solway, into which it falls, are the frequent scenes of tragical accidents. The editor trusts he *will* (shall) be pardoned for inserting the following awfully impressive account of such an event, contained in a letter from Dr. CURRIE, of Liverpool, by whose correspondence, while in the course of preparing these volumes for the press, he has been alike honoured and instructed. After stating that he had some recollection of the ballad which follows, the bio-

'* Stunted trees.'

grapher

grapher of BURNS proceeds thus: "I once in my early days heard, (for it was night, and I could not see) a traveller drowning; not in the Annan itself, but in the Frith of Solway, close by the mouth of that river. The influx of the tide had unhorsed him, in the night, as he was passing the sands from Cumberland. The west wind blew a tempest, and, according to the common expression, brought in the water *three foot a-breast.* The traveller got upon a standing net a little way from the shore. There he lashed himself to the post, shouting for half an hour for assistance—till the tide rose over his head! In the darkness of night, and amid the pauses of the hurricane, his voice, heard at intervals, was exquisitely mournful. No one could go to his assistance—no one knew where he was—the sound seemed to proceed from the spirit of the waters. But morning rose—the tide had ebbed—and the poor traveller was found lashed to the pole of the net, and bleaching in the wind."—

ANNAN WATER.

—"Annan water's wading deep,
And my love Annie's wondrous bonnie;
And I am laith she shud weet her feet,
Because I love her best of ony.

"Gar saddle me the bonny black;
Gar saddle sune, and make him ready:
For I will down the Gatehope-slack,
And all to see my bonny ladye."—

'He has loupen on the bonny black,
He stirr'd him wi' the spur right sairly;
But, or he wan the Gatehope-slack,
I think the steed was wae and weary.

'He has loupen on the bonnie gray,
He rade the right gate and the ready;
I trow he would neither stint nor stay,
For he was seeking his bonnie ladye.

'The gray was a mare, and a right good mare;
But when she wan the Annan water,
She could na hae ridden a furlong mair,
Had a thousand merks been wadded * at her.

'The side was stey, and the bottom deep,
Frae bank to brae the water pouring;
And the bonnie gray mare did sweat for fear,
For she heard the water kelpy roaring.

'O he has pou'd aff his dapperpy † coat,
The silver buttons glanced bonny;
The waistcoat bursted aff his breast,
He was sae full of melancholy.

' * *Wadded.*—Wagered. † *Quære.*—Cap-a-pee?"

' He

'He has ta'en the ford at that stream tail;
I wot he swam both strong and steady;
But the stream was broad, and his strength did fail,
And he never saw his bonny ladye.

—"O wae betide the frush * saugh wand!
And wae betide the bush of briar!
It brake into my true love's hand,
When his strength did fail, and his limbs did tire.

"And wae betide ye, Annan water!
This night that ye are a drumlie river;
For over thee I'll build a bridge,
That ye never more true love may sever."—

To the last note, it may be proper to add, with all due deference to the editor, that we believe that *frush* (in some provinces of Scotland, at least) denotes a want of cohesion of parts; and, though not quite synonymous with *brittle*, it may often be rendered by the latter without any violation of meaning. In the present instance, this acceptation better accords with the sense of the context.—Here we must also beg leave to observe that Mr. Scott has not always been sufficiently careful to give the necessary explanation of provincial terms. *Gare*, *swapped*, *loun*, &c. will be unintelligible to most English readers, and should therefore have been translated in the margin.

It is seldom, however, that our patience is rewarded by melting strains; nor does either genius or elegance seem to have presided at the birth of most of the popular ditties which Mr. S. has so painfully accumulated.—What shall we say of the smoothness or delicacy of such lines as these,

"*And planted down palliones there to bide*
Wi' Sir George Hinrome of Schipsydehouse—
They counted us not worth a louse?"

Should it be alleged that none but a native of Scotland can feel and appreciate the beauties of his vernacular poems, we admit the assertion to a certain extent; and that much of the spirit and effect of an original composition may vanish in a translation:—but let us, for the sake of experiment, merely change the orthography and pronunciation of two stanzas taken at random, and see how much poetry will remain behind;

"Bid him meet me at Penmanscore,
And bring four in his company;
Five Earls shall come with myself;
Good reason I should honoured be.

'* *Frush.*—Fresh.'

"And

"And, if he refuses to do that,
Bid him look for no good of me!
There shall never a Murray, after him,
Have land in Etrick forest free."

We strongly suspect that the old Scottish melodies are greatly superior to old Scottish poetry; and that, consequently, a combination of words, though very remote from the language of the muses, may excite pleasing emotions by recalling the air to which it is adapted. Recollection of the air may, in turn, induce that of local scenery, the playfulness of childhood, or the endearments of friendship; and thus a few verses, devoid of intrinsic excellence, may warm the bosom, or extort the tear of precious remembrances. That species of gratification, however, which originates in accidental associations, scarcely belongs to the cognizance of general criticism. The *Ranz des Vaches*, a tune which plunges a Swiss soldier into a lingering and sometimes a fatal reverie, is regarded by the Italian musician as beneath his contempt; and the sound of the bag-pipe, which gladdens the heart of our northern mountaineers, would scarcely be tolerated at Vauxhall.

Too many of the small pieces now before us are destitute of true poetic unction;—a want, for which nothing can compensate. To add to their general demerit, grammar is sometimes grossly sacrificed to rhyme, and the latter is more frequently totally disregarded. We know not in what districts of the island *wine* corresponds with *hame*, *ane* with *down*, *blude* with *dead*, &c. &c. &c. Neither are we enthusiastic admirers of the following war-hoop; though, if duly vociferated by the *Long Quaker* of Sowport, we are persuaded that it might produce the most repulsive consequences on the enemy, should he presume to set foot on the sands of Cumberland:

'THE FRAY OF SUPORT.

'Sleep'ry Sim, of the Lamb-hill,
And snoring Jock of Suport-mill,
Ye are baith right het and fou';—
But my wae wakens na you.
Last night I saw a sorry sight—
Nought left me, o' four and twenty gude ousen and ky,
My weel ridden gelding, and a white quey,
But a toom byre and a wide,
And the twelve nogs * on ilka side.
Fy lads! shout a' a' a' a' a'
My gear's a' gane.

'* *Nogs.*—Stakes.'

'Weel

'Weel may ye ken
Last night I was right scarce o' men:
But Toppet Hob o' the Mains had guesten'd in my house by chance;
I set him to wear the fore-door wi' the speir, while I kept the back-door wi' the lance;
But they hae run him thro' the thick o' the thie, and broke his knee-pan,
And the mergh * o' his shin bane has run down on his spur leather whang—
He's lame while he lives, and where e'er he may gang.
Fy lads! shout a' a' a' a' a'
My gear's a' gane.

'But Peenye, my gude son, is out at the Hagbut-head,
His e'en glittering for anger like a fierye gleed;
Crying—"Mak sure the nooks
Of Maky's-muir-crooks;
For the wily Scot takes by nooks, hooks, and crooks.
Gin we meet a' together in a-head the morn,
We'll be merry men."—
Fy lads! shout a' a' a' a' a'
My gear's a' gane.

'There's doughty Cuddy in the Heugh-head,
Thou was aye gude at a' need:
With thy brock skin bag at thy belt,
Ay ready to mak a puir man help.
Thou maun awa' out of the Calf-craigs,
(Where anes ye lost your ain twa naigs)
And there toom thy brock-skin bag.
Fy lads! shout a' a' a' a' a'
My gear's a' ta'en.

'Doughty Dan o' the Houlet Hirst,
Thou was aye gude at a birst:
Gude wi' a bow, and better wi' a speir;
The bauldest march man that e'er followed gear;
Come thou here.
Fy lads! shout a' a' a' a' a'
My gear's a' gane.

'Rise, ye Carle Coopers, frae making o' kirns and tubs,
In the Nicol forest woods.
Your craft has na left the value of an oak rod—
But if you had had ony fear o' God,
Last night ye had na slept sae sound,
And let my gear be a' ta'en.
Fy lads! shout a' a' a' a' a'
My gear's a' gane.

'Ah! lads, we'll fang them a' in a net,
For I hae a' the fords o' Liddel set—

' * Mergh.—*Marrow.*'

The

The Dunkin, and the Door-loup,
The Willie ford, and the Water-slack,
The Black-rack, and the Trout-dub o' Liddel;
There stands John Forster wi' five men at his back,
Wi' bufft coat and cap of steil:
Boo! ca' at them e'en, Jock;
That ford's sicker I wat weil.
Fy lads! shout a' a' a' a' a'
My gear's a' ta'en.

'Hoo! hoo! gar raise the Reid Souter, and Ringan's Wat,
Wi' a brod elshin and a wicker;
I wat weil they'll mak a ford sicker.
Sae whether they be Elliots or Armstrangs
Or rough riding Scots, or rude Johnstons,
Or whether they be frae the Tarras or Ewsdale,
They maun turn and fight, or try the deeps o' Liddel.
Fy lads! shout a' a' a' a' a'
My gear's a' gane.

—"Ah! but they will play ye another jigg,
For they will out at the big rig,
And thro' at Fargy Grame's gap."—
—"But I hae another wile for that:
For I hae little Will, and stalwart Wat,
And lang Aicky, in the Souter moor,
Wi' his sleuth dog sits in his watch right sure;
Shou'd the dog gie a bark,
He'll be out in his sark,
And die or won.
Fy lads! shout a' a' a' a' a'
My gear's a' gane.

'Ha! boys—I see a party appearing—wha's yon?
Methinks it's the Captain of Bewcastle, and Jephtha's John,
Coming down by the foul steps of Catlowdie's loan—
They'll mak a' sicker, come which way they will.
Ha lads! shout a' a' a' a' a'
My gear's a' ta'en.

'Captain Musgrave, and a' his band,
Are coming down by the Siller strand,
And the muckle town bell o' Carlisle is rung:
My gear was a' weel won,
And before it's carried o'er the border, mony a man's gae down.
Fy lads! shout a' a' a' a' a'
My gear's a' gane.'

As the counterpart of the above, and as a specimen of the poems professedly modern, we copy a few stanzas of the third part of *Thomas the Rhymer:*

'Then forth he went; yet turned him oft
To view his ancient hall;

On

On the grey tower, in lustre soft,
The autumn moonbeams fall.

'And Leader's waves, like silver sheen,
Danced shimmering in the ray;
In deepening mass, at distance seen,
Broad Soltra's mountains lay.

—"Farewell, my father's ancient tower!
A long farewell," said he:
"The scene of pleasure, pomp, or power,
Thou never more shalt be.

"To Learmont's name no foot of earth
Shall here again belong;
And, on thy hospitable hearth,
The hare shall leave her young.

"Adieu! Adieu!" again he cried;
All as he turned him roun'—
—"Farewell to Leader's silver tide!
Farewell to Erceldoune!"—

'The hart and hind approached the place,
As lingering yet he stood;
And there, before Lord Douglas' face,
With them he cross'd the flood.

'Lord Douglas leaped on his berry-brown steed,
And spurr'd him the Leader o'er;
But, tho' he rode with lightning speed,
He never saw them more.

'Some sayd to hill, and some to glen;
Their wond'rous course had been;
But ne'er in haunts of living men
Again was Thomas seen.'

If we could make room, we should also present our readers with an animated ode on visiting Flodden-field, by Mr. J. Leyden. Of the few imitations of the antient ballads by this gentleman and the editor, we may safely affirm that, in correctness of language and smoothness of numbers, they far surpass their prototypes; and that they rather breathe the spirit of elegant English effusions, than of those coarse strains which indicate the once untutored state of Caledonia.

Though we cannot entirely approve the nature and extent of Mr. S.'s plan, yet the fidelity, taste, and learning, which he has manifested in the execution of it, induce us to cherish the hope that he will employ his pen on more important and useful subjects. Even from his present labours, indeed, the curious inquirer may derive some ingenious and entertaining information on several points connected with the antiquities and history

of

of Great Britain. Prefixed to *the Young Tamlane* is an acute and philosophical dissertation on the *Fairies of popular superstition*; and the insertion of *Thomas the Rhymer* suggests some pertinent remarks on his reputed gift of prophecy.

Mr. Scott's style is, for the most part, clear, smooth, and correct: but sometimes it approaches to inflation, and sometimes betrays symptoms of a northern residence. The first two sentences of the Introduction are rather stately:

'From the remote period when the Roman Deity, *Terminus*, retired behind the ramparts of *Severus*, until the union of the kingdoms, the borders of Scotland formed the stage, upon which were presented the most memorable conflicts of two gallant nations. The inhabitants, at the commencement of this æra, formed the first wave of the torrent, which assaulted, and finally overwhelmed, the barriers of the Roman power in Britain.'

We are also told that 'Buccleuch and his band of cavalry were discovered, hanging, *like a thunder-cloud*, on the neighbouring hill:' but we have seen a band of cavalryon a neighbouring hill, and, to our organs, they exhibited no similitude to a thunder-cloud. Such expressions as the following must be placed to the account of Scotticisms; viz.: *misgave* for *failed*, *abstracted* and *abstraction* in the sense of *stolen* and *theft*, *occupied* THE *time* for *his* time, &c.

It is our intention to take notice of Vol. III. in a subsequent article. Muir...d.

ART. IV. *Fragments of Letters and other Papers*, written in different Parts of Europe, at Sea, and on the Asiatic and African Coasts, or Shores of the Mediterranean, at the Close of the eighteenth and Beginning of the nineteenth Century. By John Walker, M.D. 8vo. pp. 440. 7s. 6d. Boards. Darton and Harvey. 1802.

BOOKS of Travels have become so common, and consequently travellers of different kinds have been so frequently offered to our notice, that the discovery of a *non-descript* writer in this branch of literature is an object of attention. The worthy Author before us appears to be perfectly novel, at least in his method of writing; for a letter dated from Mahon or Malta, of his inditing, contains a description of Portsmouth or of Liverpool; he takes occasion, from some of the most striking events of the Egyptian expedition, to amuse his readers with the history of a breakfast, or an excursion to some of his Castles in the air; and the title of every letter seems contrived as a trap to ensnare a curiosity which he had determined never to gratify. So whimsically is this rambling humour of the good Doctor displayed, that we can only characterize it by the old phrase of looking one way and rowing another.

Many peculiarities in this Author's style, as well as in his habits of thinking and acting, may indeed be explained from his religious opinions. We learn, in the course of the book, that he belongs to the Society of Friends; and that he was induced to traverse part of the Ocean, and "to herd with the men in blue and the men in scarlet who smote the ungodly one," by the laudable desire of extending the benefits of the Vaccine Inoculation. There is so much philanthropy amid all his desultory discussions, that we are pleased with the dispositions of the Man, even when the Writer excites a smile.—As a proof of these assertions, we shall extract the thirtieth letter:

'At Sea, between Sicily and Malta; 6, xi, 1800.

'When I first declined attending dramatic exhibitions, a strong persuasion rested on my mind, that I had not a right to expend money on such indulgences, while poor people were to be found obliged to go to bed without any supper: there are many benevolent people, I believe, who go there principally with a view to help to spread a comfortable board for the actors. I am of opinion, that he who hires another to do what he would think degraded himself or his friends to perform, falls short, in such conduct, of the pure principle of truth. Who would be willing to have a sister treading the stage for the amusement of others? those who would not, do, in supporting the theatre, help to degrade, in their own estimation, the female sex, whose honour they ought to support. In the countries on the continent, at Paris particularly, where the different conditions of the people do not obtain for them such different measures of esteem or of disrespect, as in England; where the minstrels in the streets, like Homer of old, frequently sing the ballads of their own composing, and, surrounded by a concourse of almost every description of people, find some, perhaps, sufficiently *amateurs* to join them in the chorus; see the nurses hoisting the children to the tune of their song, and every surrounding and beholding countenance helping to keep up their spirits under their exertions, vocal and instrumental, by the smile which silently acknowledges merit, or the hearty laugh which does it loudly; if their song be not elegiac, producing the quiet attitude and composed look, or exciting the tear of compassion; in most of the instances, the minstrels, male or female, appearing the most *natty* (neat) figures in the whole assemblage. In such a country, where *tout le monde* runs after amusement, and every one cherishes and respects the ministers to their pleasures, he who has avoided the drama, through fear that the *dramatis personæ* were dishonoured, may be secretly enticed to the place where all the weaknesses of our nature are assailed; by the delusive exhibitions of every passion which can awake sympathy, impressive, though fictitious; and the most magical representations of almost every scene in real life. On the stage is heard the captivating echo of living manners; and the prolonged sounds of it 'melting away in a dying, dying fall,' by the representations of the days of other times. But the days of the years of the pilgrimage of human life are a few, and there are duties for every man to fulfil therein. On being invited to attend a dramatic performance, by a few

friends, in a private theatre in Paris, I acknowledged the kindness of the citizens who pressed me to attend, and who told me that the amusement was innocent, and perhaps added, that the moral of the piece was instructive. Without presuming to censure them for spending their time in such a way, I yet thought it right to inform them, that I did not feel clear in my mind to indulge myself in attending the exhibitions of people acting parts which were not their own.—But there was no falsity in it, seeing that no deception was either intended or attempted. Feeling as I did at the time, it would have been in me a departure from the strictness of truth, (however some may term it the straitness of a superstitious prejudice,) to have taken a seat in their theatre. Yet I attended lectures at the school of elocution at the Pantheon, where the pupils, from the different parts of the republic, repeated the dramatic speeches of William Tell and his associates, in order to give the lecturer an opportunity of pointing out to them any provincial peculiarities he might discover in their pronunciation; and on which, or such occasions, this *ci-devant prêtre* took the opportunity of treading upon the hierarchy, already thrown down, by acknowledging that 'the sentiment of immortality, *though* a doctrine of Christianism, was good.' But to return to the comedians aboard of the Endymion; though I retained, as I still do, the general sentiment of the impropriety of acting characters not our own, yet I was witness, in part, to the performances of the sailors. The road, between the mess-room and the deck, lay through the place where the audience was collected; and, in passing this place, I got rather jammed, once or twice, among the people, so as not to be able to get backwards or forwards for some time, without incommoding some of them; in walking decks I could not but hear, in part, how they were going on underneath, on the opposite side. Besides, with all my objections to promoting exhibitions of this kind, I may not consider the casting of an eye, the turning of an ear to them, when falling in the way of them unsought for, as at all promoting them; any more than I may consider my presence among the people engaged in fight, as increasing the battle. They know that I do not meddle with the instruments of death; and, while other passengers take their stations at the guns, they do not attempt to appoint me quarters; save that they sometimes tell me, that my services will be acceptable in the cockpit, where, if I could render any aid or relief to the wounded, I should certainly feel very happy. It is an idea, so strongly impressed on my mind, that it is always right to aid and comfort the weak and the weary, that were it in my power to give refreshment to the faint of the armies of that country of which I am a subject, and of that which is at war with it; even when they were marching to the battle against each other; even in the midst of the battle, when they were attempting to destroy each other; I would give to them refreshment, and to both of them equally. The act of fighting is one; that of refreshing the faint is another; and of a nature exactly opposite to it. In effecting the one, I do not hold myself accountable for the other; it is wholly opposed to the wish of my heart.'

The reflections contained in the succeeding passages are still more interesting, as they exhibit the impression communicated by scenes of danger to those who merely look on them:

'A vessel, supposed to be a prize, was seen coming from Algezeira, and chase was made, with a view to cut her off. She was fired at, at the distance of about two miles, and the ball struck the water very near her The fire was repeated without effect, and she returned into port. A small boat was seen coming from the shore, and making toward some of the convoy to windward, with an intention, it was supposed, to board them. She gave up the attempt, and again made for the shore. A ball was fired at her, and went very near her; on which a man in the stern stood up and waved his hat, which excited a laugh on board of the Endymion. He was supposed to be a Frenchman, the boat hoisting a three-coloured flag. The forts on the hills, as well as on the lower grounds, fired at us as we passed along the shore. The balls thickened, and the sounds of explosions increased, as we approached Algezeira. During this time of alarm, I was indebted to the captain-passenger for putting his spy-glass into my hand, and pointing out to me the fine aqueduct, which brings water from the mountains to Algezeira. While I had a closer view of the architecture, by help of the glass, the object was large enough to be seen with the naked eye, and to fill it with that species of beauty which Hogarth calls magnitude or quantity, as well as with all the variety of form which the arch and its supporters, and what crowns them, exhibit—the long continuation of this, the elegant and regular repetition of those. Silent it stood—this magnificent piece of useful art, relieving in light from the sober-tinted hills in the back ground—and seemed to me to flare reproof on the perversion of human intellect that I was then witness to, the most ingenious applications of it to the purposes of destruction. In the midst of all the fracas, it remained unmoved, while the death-threatening vessels were in motion. It seemed to repose in peace, while flashes from the batteries, the sounds from the explosions of their guns, the hissing of their coming balls, their splashy falls in the water, and the bursting of their bombs in the air, gave a different character to these, as well as to the vessels vomitting lightning and smoke, and roaring, like thunder, in emitting their shots and shells. In the first attack on the gun-boats at Algezeira, from the slackening of the wind a calm was apprehended, and the Endymion passed on out of the reach of their fire. In the mean time, the vessels of the convoy were, on their arrival one after another, casting anchor at Gibraltar, while the inhabitants were regarding us, with anxious expectations, from all parts of the rock. The breeze springing up again, I had the mortification to see the Endymion tack about again, to renew the attack; and, by help of the spy-glass, I saw an immense number of men pulling at their oars, to bring their guns to bear upon us. I saw the balls making what children call 'ducks and drakes' upon the water. Some fell very near the gun-boats, perhaps splashed them, or flew over them, as their's splashed and flew over the Endymion. I hope, and believe also, that they all escaped as well as we did, who were not one of us hurt. From first to last, I suppose, the firing continued about a couple of hours; at least an officer told me so. It is not to be supposed that I, unaccustomed to such scenes, could form any accurate estimate of the time in which they were passing. The time passed in a way so irksome to me, it might have seemed to me as an age. On such occasions as these,

these, which I am afraid of seeing renewed very shortly, I have had an opportunity of making some observations on sights, sounds, and the progress of balls. I have seen the approach of balls, two at a time, as well as of shells, and observed that the report from a gun very far outstrips the ball in its course. This is a well-established doctrine in physics. but it is contrary to the common opinion:

'The mimic thunder of the deep-mouthed gun,
By lightning usher'd, and by death outrun.'

The sailors think, when they have heard the report of the enemy's gun, that the ball is passed, and feel as secure as we generally do when hearing thunder after the flash of the lightning; but I noticed, off Algezeira, that the ball came after the report, though not so long after as the report was after the flash; and that thus death was threatened through the eye and ear, before it could possibly reach us in shape of a ball. I could not be mistaken, for, I remember well, the alarm excited by the flash, was increased on hearing the explosion. I knew then that the ball might soon reach us, and if it did not catch my eye, I generally heard it whizzing near. How are the contrary notions to be reconciled with each other. It all depends upon the distance from the place of firing. Considering the direction of balls in their progress relatively to the earth, every projected ball, whose direction is not right up or down, describes a curve, formed by combination of the projectile force, with the earth's attraction. In that part of the curve, in which the ball is getting farther from the earth's centre, that is, until the time of its beginning to drop. its velocity will gradually diminish; moreover, the ball and the sound do not start fair, if I may so express it, in the race. The ball gets the forestart, and generally going quickest at first, it arrives, at a small distance, sooner than the report, which is not made till the ball is expelled from the piece, and on its way; but in a little time the sound overtakes the ball, and gets very speedily on before it

'During the coming of a whizzing ball. I have observed a general seriousness of countenance, with silence; in its passing over the vessel, a smile; on its falling short, a laugh. To people not employed with something to engage the mind, it is very trying to be exposed to danger. They have time to fashion their fears into a thousand shapes. Some of them keep together, and talk, in a rather low voice, about indifferent matters; on subjects rather insipid than either serious or laughable. Others keep alone, and seem indifferent about what may happen. One is ashamed to appear frightened; at the same time, one is willing to get, as it were by accident, to the leeward of a mast or capstan, if the firing be to windward. In such situations one is apt to have the company of boys belonging to the vessel, if they can contrive any thing to do there. They seem to be in a great bustle about some little business or other; but they are, in fact, proving to the sympathising, and consequently discerning, passenger, that 'self-preservation is the first law of nature.' Others, from sentiment or habit, seem to have had this first sensation almost extinguished in them. Wholly engaged in the business and bustle of the battle, they have not time to think of the danger to which they are exposed, and, not suspecting fears in others, they do not discover the symptoms of

it, which are so readily detected by the sympathising, and consequently discerning, passenger. The Endymion at length tacked, and stood away for Gibraltar, relieving the timid from all their fears. Every vessel of the convoy was safe arrived within the mole, when she herself came to an anchor.'

We learn, with some regret, that the author was under the necessity of abstaining from the mess on board a man of war, because he would not uncover his head at table; and in consequence of this circumstance, he informs us that he found room in his clothes, and time for vaccination. We must confess that the conduct of all parties in this business appears to be blameable.

In a subsequent letter, we meet with a curious comparison between Mahomet and George Fox, which we little expected from Dr. Walker's pen:

'I contemplate with astonishment what an obscure leader of a sect may be the means of effecting in the world. Let the individual observe the fact and have respect to his words and ways, for he knows not what they may lead to; let him come out from the 'swinish multitude,' (expression, however rude, most characteristic of a mass of people led about by every vagary of what is called fashion), and possess a character of his own; let him lose respect for public opinion, seeing it is unstable and capricious. Mahomet and George Fox, whatever contrasts to each other, have both been accounted leaders of sects, and both seem to have borne, in the beginning, an heroic testimony against the superatitions of their day. The intrepid Arab of Medina left his care of camels, and spread his faith, by war and conquest, from the shores of the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic; the simple shepherd of Drayton, in Leicestershire, left his dealing in wool, and seemed to bear a most active part in gathering hundreds and thousands together into an organized system, where there is a profession of a renunciation both of hierarchy and war, in this world of almost universal hostility and superstition. The former seems to have imposed his Koran equally by fraud and violence on a large portion of mankind; the latter referred the people to the monitor within, '*ce rayon de la Divinité,*' as to the eternal word; but his judgment appears to have been imposed on, a little, by the fanaticism of the day in which he lived, and even by the blandishments of the sect which he seemed to have been so instrumental in gathering together.'

We admire the candour of the concluding clause, the truth of which must be acknowleged by those who have read the curious Life of George Fox.

The spirit of opposition to common forms rises again in the 69th letter; and the sight of iron spikes seems to irritate the author as much as our steeple-houses provoked the founder of his sect. After having expressed his disapprobation of the practice of putting spikes behind a carriage, to prevent persons from getting up to ride, he thus continues:

'I have

'I have seen spikes on the top of that kind of a grated fender which is intended for keeping children from the fire, but it was not in a nursery; no, it was in a countinghouse in Liverpool, the neatest and most extensive I ever saw. Being asked, in presence of the merchant, how I liked the place, 'It is all very beautiful and elegant, except the fender, which has a horrible appearance in my eye, and might produce an ugly accident.' It had been imagined in the true *esprit de calcul.* It was to prevent the clerks from sitting down and idling on it, to take away the temptation of their staying too long at the fire.

'Let me mention another instance or two of the adoption of spikes, death-threatening spikes, and then we may return to the convent. There is a Quaker meetinghouse in a western part of England, and over the gate which leads into the yard, situated between the house and the street, iron spikes are fixed up to prevent any one from getting over. If no such things were there, it is not at all likely that any body would attempt to scale the wall. Long forms, or empty seats, do not offer any temptation; if the doors were left open, I do not think any body would run away with them. For a Quaker, who refuses to take up the sword in the defence of his person, his family, or friends, to set up iron spikes for the purpose of defending the stuff which he may have accumulated, is extremely uncomely, and perfectly inconsistent with his peaceful profession. If he be not prepared to feel himself satisfied on finding impaled in the morning the presumptuous wretch who had dared to attempt to clamber over them in the night, he set them up before he had fully considered the nature of his act, and when he has considered it aright he will take them down again, together with every piece of broken glass that he may have had plaistered upon his walls, and even the torturing traps, and poisonous baits, which he may have unfeelingly laid to catch the animals that annoy him, and to inflict on them a rankling wound, which shall slowly, yet certainly and cruelly, sap the springs of that life which they were only attempting to support and enjoy. Why did the meeting at Cirencester permit any of its members to deform their meeting-place with iron spikes? We have a right to consider the tolerated inconsistency as their own act. What is done in private houses, meetings cannot be so fully accountable for; and it would be useless in me to attempt to recommend to the mere worldlings of your society to put away their man-traps and spring-guns, or the less treacherous instruments of death, blunderbusses, pistols, and swords. There may be some excuse for keeping a watch-dog, as he may alarm the peaceable family on the approach of thieves, and put them upon doubly securing the fastenings of their doors and windows; but I remember, on once crossing a merchant's yard, who was one of your elders, in company with his son, we were assailed by a very noisy little animal of this kind, on which the young friend turning to me, with a smile, rather archly observed, 'these animals are literally the arms of flesh.'

'I have known a Quaker's country house to pass, by purchase, into the possession of a judge, accustomed to pass sentence of death on unhappy criminals, many times throughout the year. The Re-

corder was not content with the height of the walls; he reared them higher, and topped them with spikes. The fair mansion was almost hid from the view of the traveller passing along the road; the prospect from the house was equally hurt; but the unnecessary fears of the judge might be apologised for in his peculiar manner of life; his dreams might be disturbed by the confused recollection on his bed of what he heard pass in the court.'

A few pages afterward, the Doctor presents us with a tale of real woe, in 'the instance of suffering to which he was witness in Nottingham gaol, in 1793:'

'I there saw two women, who had been married after the antient and simple manner of the Quakers, without clerical interference. After marriage, they were cited by their maiden names to appear before the ecclesiastical court; and these poor simple women thought it would be like a renunciation of their marriage to answer such citation. 'Being married,' said they, 'we have lost our maiden names, and can only acknowledge that of our husbands.' For not appearing on the citation, they were excommunicated and lodged in gaol. At the time I saw them, they had been about seven years in confinement. I do not remember to have heard that they are yet released; so that I believe they have consumed more than ten tedious years within the walls of a British prison. Others they have seen led out to liberty, to exile, or to death, while they have, themselves the poor sufferers, continued to shed unavailing tears. What would become of the survivor if the older should die? That relief which I saw the younger obtain by weeping, in relating her tale of woe, might, perhaps, be withheld from her. In silent and solitary grief their source might be dried up.'

This volume presents a variety of entertaining matter, combined with sensible remarks: but it is more particularly to be regarded as a curiosity in literature, from the picture which it exhibits of a mind naturally active and ingenuous, struggling with an attachment to prejudices and peculiarities, many of which indeed originate in amiable motives, but the generality of which become more and more singular, in proportion to the advances made in knowlege and refinement by society at large.

Fer-

ART. V. *An Essay on Abstinence from Animal Food, as a moral Duty.* By Joseph Ritson. 8vo. pp. 236. 5s. Boards. R. Phillips. 1802.

THE scruples of ingenuous minds are always intitled to attention, even when they are not supported by the strongest arguments. Those zealous adherents to the purity of the Sabbath, in some parts of Scotland, who will not permit a joint of meat to be roasted, a bed to be made, nor a wig to be powdered, on Sunday, are commendable in their intentions; and equally respectable was the Jewish Sect which, aiming at sanctity more than

than human, prohibited its votaries from evacuating the contents of the *primæ viæ* during their Sabbath. Bayle has ungraciously diverted himself with imagining the contorsions and grimaces to which a devotee of this kind must have been subjected, till the hour of relief arrived; and we can easily conceive that a pupil of Mr. Ritson must be exposed also to much trouble in his progress towards Pythagorean perfection, till he acquires a philosophic hatred of roast beef, and looks with fraternal commiseration on the slaughtered remains of a calf or a goose. The hardest part of his task, however, we imagine, would consist in reading Mr. Ritson's book with sufficient gravity; the matter, style, and orthography of which have frequently frustrated our most serious intentions during the perusal.

The first chapter treats 'of man;' and here the author seems to consider it as proved beyond dispute, that the present world has existed from all eternity, and that men and other animals have been spontaneously produced. He is even obliging enough to inform us, that man may be arranged under the monkey-kind: to which choice opinion we shall only reply, "your humble servants, sir; take your *own station* where it befits you." We are sorry, however, to be led to remark that atheism is inculcated at present with singular industry; in verse and in prose, in jest and in earnest. We shall never fail to detect and expose it under all its shapes.

It seems to be the aim of Mr. Ritson to depreciate the human species to a very low rank among animated beings; and really he has exerted his best endeavours to satirize the talent of reasoning, in the course of his discussion. To justify this opinion, we shall extract the concluding part of the first chapter:

'For man to have a just and perspicuous idea of the bountys of nature, he should visit hospitals, and not churches. Of these bountys we are supply'd by the divine Milton with an ample and shocking catalogue, as exhibited to Adam by the favourite archangel of the allmighty power, soon after the creation; to convince him of the hapyness provideëd for himself and his posterity, which was to replenish the world.

——— "Immediately a place
Before his eyes appear'd, sad, noisom, dark,
A lazar-house it seem'd; wherein were lay'd
Numbers of all disease'd: all maladys
Of ghastly spasm, or racking torture, qualms,
Of heart-sick agony, all feverous kinds,
Convulsions, epilepsys, fierce catarrhs,
Intestine stone, and ulcer, cholick pangs.
Daemoniack phrenzy, mopeing melancholy,

And

And moon-struck madness, pineing atrophy,
Marasmus, and wide-wasteing pestilence,
Dropsies and asthmas, and joint-racking rheums."

'The onely mode in which man or brute can be useful or hapy, with respect either to the generality or to the individual, is to be just, mild, mercyful, benevolent, humane, or, at least, innocent or harmless, whether such qualitys be natural or not; but if the present system of murder, bloodshed, cruelty, malignance, and mischief, should continue, it would be better that such diabolical monsters should cease to exist.'

After this misanthropic declamation, the author proceeds to shew that animal food is not natural to man. On this subject he has collected some opinions, but no proofs. Had he extended his anatomical and physiological inquiries beyond the very few authors whom he has mentioned, he would have found that the best anatomists consider the structure of the human digestive organs as adapted both to animal and vegetable food:—unless, in this instance, as respecting the origin of the human race, he should choose to support the doctrines of Martinus Scriblerus; whom yet we do not observe among his authorities.

In the third chapter, Mr. Ritson attempts to prove that animal food is *not necessary*. We remark here, first, great ignorance of the true theory of digestion, his only references on this subject being to Dr. Cheyne and Dr. Arbuthnot, as if Spallanzani and other late philosophers had never existed: secondly, that the proofs here offered tend to shew that *all* kinds of food are unnecessary. We shall have occasion to observe, hereafter, that this ought to have been the author's thesis, if he had understood his own argument.

Allons! in the next chapter, animal food is said to be the cause of cruelty and ferocity. Here the author forgets that some vegetable productions, such as wine, beer, and spirits, are liable to the same accusation. We learn, in the course of this work, that Mr. R. has abstained from animal food during many years, yet his lucubrations are not entirely purified from ill-humour and cruelty to other writers. Is there no cruelty, then, but in preparations for cookery? Is an ox intitled to more tenderness than a poet, a scholar, or an historian? We do not admire this partial and perverse benevolence, which fears to inflict a momentary pain on a quadruped or a fish, but which would not hesitate, in prosecuting an argument, to wound permanently the feelings of a highly cultivated mind. This is indeed monkey philosophy; and the reflection on Providence in the note (†), p. 99, has the appearance of being more mischievously than humanely directed.

In

In the sixth chapter, the origin of human sacrifices is attributed to the desire of animal food. This is a weak point, and we think that it is by no means made out. Revenge and superstition were more probably the causes of this horrible custom. —Mr. Ritson has laboured, in this and the succeeding chapters, to prove that the practice of eating human flesh has been usual among many nations; and on this subject his misanthropy is conspicuous; for, besides admitting questionable authorities, he has assumed particular and extraordinary incidents for general practices, as if an historian were to infer, from the stories of the cruelties committed on the bodies of Marechal D'Ancre, the Admiral Coligni, and the De Witts, that the French and Dutch nations were habitually man-eaters. Indeed, Mr. R. is disposed, apparently, to conclude, from instances of individual ferocity or maniacal savageness, that cannibalism not only has prevailed in France and other neighbouring countries, but that it *was not extinct at a very late period* *, either in France or England. To this very liberal opinion, we shall only reply in the words of Malherbe, when Regnier recited some verses to him, in which he represented France as rising into the air to return thanks for one of Henry IV.'s victories; '*Though this must have been in our time, we do not remember it.*'

The chapter intitled '*Animal Food pernicious*,' offers fresh instances of the author's ignorance of facts essential to his subject. He imputes the number of deaths in London among children under two years of age, to the untimely and unnatural use of animal food: but the truth is that very few children are permitted to use animal food so early, and that this premature mortality is imputable to dentition, convulsive disorders arising from acidity in the stomach, and other complaints totally unconnected with indulgence in animal food.—Indeed, when we reflect that the nutritious part both of animal and vegetable food (the gluten) appears from chemical analysis to be identical, every physiological objection to animal food must vanish, as far as it respects quality; and the question is reduced to the consideration of quantity, respecting which writers on diet have always been sufficiently scrupulous. In truth, the author's exceptions against animal food are founded on a mere want of philosophical accuracy. He detests the murder of animals for the purposes of cookery; yet he recommends the murder of vegetables for the same purposes. In what do animals and vegetables differ, but in an arbitrary term of distinction? The native rights of a cabbage are as defensible as those of a cow; and, if Mr. Ritson's premises be granted, the con-

* PP. 130, 132, & seq.

clusion

clusion is inevitable, that we ought to abstain from food altogether. We observed, indeed, in the early part of the book, a passage which looks towards this notable inference:

'Whether it be possible for man, by any mean, either of temperance, medicine, or morality, to subsist without any, or, at least, with a comparatively insignificant quantity of food, seems uncertain; for, though the famous *elixir vitae* of the alchemists, (which, by supplying the successive waste of the matter and spirit of the human body, was calculateëd to render it perpetual,) so long sought, has not yet been discover'd, it is not at all impossible, that, in a more enlighten'd age, and by the advancement of science, or some fortunate experiment, this invaluable medicine may be one day hit upon, though not, it may be, within a very speedy period; it should be recollected, at the same time, that there are several instanceës, recorded by veracious writeërs, of persons who have sustain'd exceedingly long fasts. Not to mention Simeon Stilites, who subsisted forty days, at a time, without food, in as much as his appetite is generally suppose'd, at least by the pious believeër, to have been duely temper'd by divine miracle, we are not at a loss, however, for more recent and authentick examples.'

Milk, too, which Mr. Ritson so strongly recommends as food, is an animal production; and it cannot be procured in sufficient quantities for the use of man, without prodigious injustice to the author's clients, the sucking calves, asses, and goats. It must farther be considered that, in devouring vegetable individuals, whether cooked or not, millions of insects, and of their *ova*, must necessarily be destroyed. Now if Mr. R. be right in the following note, we do not see how he can defend his consistency in proposing the substitution of vegetable for animal food;

'It is by no means probable or consistent that the vermin or minute animals (exclusive of worms) which nature has appropriateëd to particular beasts, birds, and fishes, and of which no less than three or four distinct species are peculiar to man, were intentionally place'd in those respective situations merely to be destroy'd by the creatures upon which they were so destine'd to feed. If god made *man*, or there be any *intention* in *nature*, the life of the *louse*, which is as natural to him as his frame of body, is eqnally sacred and inviolable with his own.'

What then shall be said of the bloody tyranny of a vegetable-feeder, who at one meal demolishes whole cities of insects, under the form of green-soup, cauliflower, or salad; or of him who, "with the self-same weapon too," "like Samson doth his millions slay?" Humanity like this reminds us of the project of Las Casas, who introduced the African slave-trade in order to spare the natives of America.

Having

Having thus bestowed sufficient consideration on the author's arguments, it remains that we should say something of his style. It is far from being elegant, though generally perspicuous; and it is occasionally antiquated, and sometimes vulgar. Thus, in a note or a passage quoted from Sir William Jones, Mr. R. observes, 'it is *mere fudge;*' which we beg leave to recommend as a motto for the next edition of his own volume. The book is also disfigured by an affected mode of spelling, which adds to its original barbarism. We cannot perceive the merit of writing *persuadeëd*, *writeër*, *hapen*, *accustomeing*, *filthie*, and *so forth*. Altogether, indeed, we suspect that neither Mr. Ritson's taste in eating, nor his literary *hash*, will meet with many admirers.

Fer.

Art. VI. *The Life of Poggio Bracciolini.* By the Rev. William Shepherd. 4to. 1l. 5s. Boards. Cadell and Davies. 1802.

The attention to Italian Literature, which has been excited by the popular work of Mr. Roscoe, seems to have given rise to the volume now before us. Indeed the name of Poggio occurs so frequently among writers on Italian affairs in the fifteenth century, that many readers may be desirous of acquiring more particular information respecting his life than can be gleaned from general history; and he has been mentioned by the late Dr. Warton as a discoverer of antient manuscripts, in a manner that was calculated to promote inquiry. The public are therefore under considerable obligations to Mr. Shepherd, for the labour which he has bestowed on the memoirs of Poggio; and we have only to regret that the incidents, on which Mr. S.'s talents have been excited, had not proved more numerous and more diversified.

The prolixity of many of the Italian prose-writers imposes a severe task on every author who undertakes to compile facts or opinions from them. To transcribe would be endless; and to select is both difficult and tedious, when the bulk of their volumes and the imposing solemnity of their style are considered. Mr. Shepherd has acquitted himself, under these disadvantages, in a very respectable manner. His facts are chiefly taken from Recanati's Life of Poggio: but he has referred to many other sources of information respecting the history and manners of the age, as well as the immediate object of his biography.

As the leading circumstances of Poggio's Life have been too often repeated to render a view of them necessary here, we shall particularize only some of the more important passages.

Mr. Shepherd has translated, at full length, Poggio's description of the amusements of Baden, which are still noted by travellers, and which prove the joyous, unsuspecting character of the Germans.—A more interesting quotation from Poggio's correspondence is that which contains his account of the trial and execution of Jerome of Prague; and we shall extract the greater part of this letter, as a specimen both of Poggio's epistolary manner, and of Mr. Shepherd's style of translation:

"Many things having been alledged against the prisoner, as proofs of his entertaining heretical notions, and the council being of opinion, that the proof was sufficiently strong to warrant further investigation, it was ordered that he should publickly answer to every particular of the charge. He was accordingly brought before the council. But when he was called upon to give in his answers, he for a long time refused so to do; alledging, that he ought to be permitted to speak generally in his defence, before he replied to the false imputations of his adversaries. This indulgence was however denied him. Upon which, standing up in the midst of the assembly —"What gross injustice is this!" exclaimed he, "that though for the space of three hundred and forty days, which I have spent in filth and fetters, deprived of every comfort, in prisons situated at the most remote distances from each other, you have been continually listening to my adversaries and slanderers, you will not hear me for a single hour! The consequence of this is, that while on the one hand, every one's ears are open to them, and they have for so long a time been attempting to persuade you that I am a heretic, an enemy of the true faith, a persecutor of the clergy; and on the other hand, I am deprived of every opportunity of defending myself: you have prejudged my cause, and have in your own minds condemned me, before you could possibly become acquainted with my principles. But, says he, you are not Gods, but men, not immortals, but mortals, liable to error, and subject to imperfection. We are taught to believe that this assembly contains the light of the world, the prudent men of the earth. You ought therefore to be unremittingly careful not to do any thing rashly, foolishly, or unjustly. I indeed, who am pleading for my life, am a man of little consequence; nor do I say what I do say through anxiety for myself (for I am prepared to submit to the common lot of mortality)—but I am prompted by an earnest desire, that the collective wisdom of so many eminent men may not, in my person, violate the laws of justice. As to the injury done to myself, it is comparatively of trifling consequence; but the precedent will be pregnant with future mischief." These and many other observations he made with great eloquence; but he was interrupted by the murmurs and clamour of several of his auditors. It was decreed, that he should first answer to the charges exhibited against him, and afterwards have free liberty of speech. The heads of the accusation were accordingly read from the desk. When, after they had been proved by testimony, he was asked whether he had any remarks to make in his defence; it is incredible with what skill and judgment he put in his answers. He advanced nothing unbeco-

unbecoming a good man; and if his real sentiments agreed with his professions, he was so far from deserving to die, that his principles did not even give just ground for the slightest offence. He denied the whole impeachment, as a fiction invented by the malice of his enemies. Among others an article was read, which accused him of being a detractor of the apostolic see, an oppugner of the Roman pontiff, an enemy of the cardinals, a persecutor of prelates, and an adversary of the Christian clergy. When this charge was read, he arose, and stretching out his hands, he said in a pathetic tone of voice, "Fathers! to whom shall I have recourse for succour? Whose assistance shall I implore? Unto whom shall I appeal, in protestation of my innocence?—Unto you?—But these my persecutors have prejudiced your minds against me, by declaring that I entertain hostility against all my judges. Thus have they artfully endeavoured, if they cannot reach me by their imputations of error, so to excite your fears, that you may be induced to seize any plausible pretext to destroy your common enemy, such as they most falsely represent me to be. Thus, if you give credit to their assertion, all my hopes of safety are lost." He caused many to smart by the keenness of his wit, and the bitterness of his reproaches. Melancholy as the occasion was, he frequently excited laughter, by turning to ridicule the imputations of his adversaries. When he was asked, what were his sentiments concerning the sacrament, he replied, that it was by nature bread; but that at the time of consecration, and afterwards, it was the true body of Christ, &c. according to the strictest orthodoxy. Then some one said, but it is reported that you have maintained, that there remains bread after consecration—True, said Jerome, there remains bread at the baker's. When one of the order of preaching friars was railing against him with uncommon asperity, he said to him—Hold thy peace, hypocrite. When another swore by his conscience, this, said he, is a very safe mode of deceiving. One man, who was particularly inveterate against him, he never addressed but by the title of ass or dog. As, on account of the number and importance of the articles exhibited against him, the cause could not be determined at that sitting, the court was adjourned to another day, on which the proofs of each article of impeachment were read over, and confirmed by more witnesses. Then he arose and said, "Since you have attended so diligently to my adversaries, I have a right to demand that you should also hear me with patience." Though many violently objected to this demand, it was at length conceded to him that he should be heard in his defence. He then began by solemnly praying to God, so to influence his mind, and so to inspire his speech, that he might be enabled to plead to the advantage and salvation of his soul. He then proceeded thus—"I know, most learned judges, that many excellent men have been most unworthily dealt with, overborne by false witnesses, and condemned by the most unjust judgments." Illustrating this position by particular instances, he began with Socrates, who was unjustly condemned by his countrymen, and who could not be persuaded by the dread of the most formidable evils, imprisonment and death, to avail himself of an opportunity which was presented to him of escaping out of custody.

He then proceeded to mention the captivity of Plato, the torments endured by Anaxagoras and Zeno, and the unjust condemnations of many other gentiles—the banishment of Rutilius, the unmerited death of Boetius, and of others mentioned in the writings of that author. He then passed on to the instances which are recorded in the Jewish history—and in the first place, he observed, that Moses, the deliverer and legislator of the Jews, was frequently calumniated by his own countrymen, as a seducer and contemner of the people. He also instanced Joseph, who was sold to slavery, in consequence of the envy of his brethren, and afterwards imprisoned under a groundless suspicion of incontinence. Besides these, he enumerated Isaiah, Daniel, and almost all the prophets, who were calumniated and persecuted, as despisers of God and sowers of sedition. He also alluded to the trial of Susannah, and of many others, who, notwithstanding the integrity of their lives, perished by unjust sentences. Coming down to the time of John the Baptist and our Saviour, he observed, that all are agreed that they were unjustly condemned, upon false charges, supported by false witnesses. He next quoted the case of Stephen, who was put to death by the priests; and reminded the assembly that all the apostles were condemned to die, as seditious movers of the people, contemners of the gods, and workers of iniquity. He maintained that it was a scandalous thing that one priest should be unjustly condemned by another; that it was still more scandalous, that a college of priests should be guilty of this crime; and that it was most scandalous of all, that it should be perpetrated by a general council. Nevertheless he proved from history that these circumstances had actually occurred. Upon these topics he enlarged in so impressive a manner, that every body listened to him with fixed attention. But as the weight of every cause rests upon the evidence by which it is supported, he proved, by various arguments, that no credit was due to the witnesses who deposed against him, more especially, as they were instigated to give evidence against him by hatred, malevolence, and envy. He then so satisfactorily detailed the causes of the hatred which he imputed to his prosecutors, that he almost convinced his judges of the reasonableness of his objections against their testimony. His observations were so weighty, that little credit would have been given to the depositions of the witnesses for the prosecution, in any other cause except in a trial for heresy. He moreover added, that he had voluntarily come to the council, in order to defend his injured character, and gave an account of his life and studies, which had been regulated by the laws of duty and of virtue. He remarked, that holy men of old were accustomed to discuss their differences of opinion in matters of belief, not with a view of impugning the faith, but of investigating the truth—that St. Augustine and St. Jerome had thus differed in opinion, and had upon some points even held contrary sentiments, without any suspicion of heresy. All the audience entertained hopes, that he would either clear himself by retracting the heresies which were objected to him, or supplicate pardon for his errors. But he maintained that he had not erred, and that therefore he had nothing to retract. He next began to praise John Huss,

Huss, who had been condemned to the flames, calling him a good, just, and holy man, a man who had suffered death in a righteous cause. He professed that he himself also was prepared to undergo the severest punishment with an undaunted and constant mind, declaring that he submitted to his enemies, and to witnesses who had testified such shameful falsehoods; who would however, on some future day, give an account of what they had said, to a God who could not be deceived. When Jerome made these declarations, the assembly was affected with the greatest sorrow; for every body wished, that a man of such extraordinary talents should repent of his errors and be saved. But he persisted in his sentiments, and seemed to court destruction. Dwelling on the praises of John Huss, he said, that he had entertained no principles hostile to the constitution of the holy church, and that he only bore testimony against the abuses of the clergy, and the pride and pomp of prelates: for that since the patrimony of the church was appropriated first to the poor, then to strangers, and lastly to the erection of churches, good men thought it highly improper that it should be lavished on harlots, entertainments, dogs, splendid garments, and other things unbecoming the religion of Christ. It may be mentioned as the greatest proof of Jerome's abilities, that though he was frequently interrupted by various noises, and was teased by some people who cavilled at his expressions, he replied to them all, and compelled them either to blush or to be silent. When the clamour incommoded him, he ceased speaking, and sometimes reproved those who disturbed him. He then continued his speech, begging and entreating them to suffer him to speak, since this was the last time they would hear him. He was never terrified by the murmurs of his adversaries, but uniformly maintained the firmness and intrepidity of his mind. It is a wonderful instance of the strength of his memory, that though he had been confined three hundred and forty days in a dark dungeon, where it was impossible for him to read, and where he must have daily suffered from the utmost anxiety of mind, yet he quoted so many learned writers in defence of his opinions, and supported his sentiments by the authority of so many doctors of the church, that any one would have been led to believe, that he had devoted all the time of his imprisonment to the peaceful and undisturbed study of philosophy. His voice was sweet, clear and sonorous; his action dignified, and well adapted either to express indignation, or to excite compassion, which however he neither asked or wished for. He stood undaunted and intrepid, not merely contemning, but like another Cato, longing for death. He was a man worthy to be had in everlasting remembrance. I do not commend him for entertaining sentiments hostile to the constitution of the church; but I admire his learning, his extensive knowledge, the suavity of his eloquence, and his ability in reply. But I am afraid that all these endowments were bestowed on him by nature, in order to effect his destruction. As he was allowed two days for repentance, several learned men, and amongst the rest the cardinal of Florence, visited him, with a view of persuading him to change his sentiments, and turn from the error of his ways. But as he pertinaciously persisted in his false notions, he was condemned as

guilty of heresy, and consigned to the flames. No stoic ever suffered death with such constancy of mind. When he arrived at the place of execution, he stripped himself of his garments, and knelt down before the stake, to which he was soon after tied with wet ropes and a chain.. Then great pieces of wood, intermixed with straw, were piled as high as his breast. When fire was set to the pile, he began to sing a hymn, which was scarcely interrupted by the smoke and flame. I must not omit a striking circumstance, which shews the firmness of his mind. When the executioner was going to apply the fire behind him, in order that he might not see it, he said, come this way, and kindle it in my sight, for if I had been afraid of it, I should never have come to this place. Thus perished a man, in every respect exemplary, except in the erroneousness of his faith. I was a witness of his end, and observed every particular of its process. He may have been heretical in his notions, and obstinate in persevering in them, but he certainly died like a philosopher. I have rehearsed a long story, as I wished to employ my leisure, in relating a transaction which surpasses the events of ancient history. For neither did Mutius suffer his hand to be burnt so patiently as Jerome endured the burning of his whole body; nor did Socrates drink the hemlock as cheerfully as Jerome submitted to the fire."

The most remarkable events in Poggio's life, viz. the discovery of a perfect copy of Quintilian, and the assistance which he gave in recovering other antient manuscripts, are briefly related. The learned world has to lament that his activity and enterprize were not sufficiently encouraged by the reigning Princes of Europe: but the destruction of manuscripts in our own country, at a much later period, (that of the reformation,) leaves us no right to tax other nations with their supineness and neglect.

On the occasion of Poggio's visit to this country, Mr. Shepherd has presented us with a view of those causes which led to the earlier encouragement of the arts and sciences in Italy, and those which retained England in a state of comparative barbarism. Part of this account we shall transcribe:

'The neglect of the liberal arts which spread the gloom of barbarism over our ancestors of the fifteenth century, may perhaps be more justly ascribed to the operation of the feudal system. This primary cause prevented that excitation of the public mind, which is necessary to the successful cultivation of literature. The feudal system was a system of strict subordination, which prescribed to every member of the political community his particular rank and place, and surrounded him by a circle, beyond which he was forbidden to pass. In the spirit of this system, till the reign of Henry IV. no farmer or mechanic was permitted to send his children to school; and long after that period, a licence from his lord was necessary to enable a man of this description to educate a son for the church. Whilst the majority of the people were thus impeded in their approach to the fountains of knowledge, it was impossible for

learning to raise her drooping head. The feudal superiors, exalted by the accident of their birth to the enjoyment of power and plenty, had no motive to induce them to submit to the labour of study. The younger branches of noble families were early taught to depend upon their swords for subsistence; and the acquisition of learning was an object far beyond the scope of the oppressed and humble vassal.

'The influence of the feudal system in checking the progress of intellect will be more plainly visible if we consider the circumstances of Italy during the period in question. In that country the ambition of adventurers, and the extension of commerce, had broken the fetters of feudalism; and had enabled the bold and daring in every species of exertion, to rise to the pitch of consequence which their talents could vindicate. Hence the dormant powers of the human mind were roused, and the expansion of learning and the liberal arts was promoted. The equalizing tyranny of the petty princes who usurped the sovereignty of various cities of Lombardy, whilst it repressed the power of the aristocracy, called into life the abilities of all the orders of society. The precarious title by which these chieftains held their exalted stations, induced them to court popularity by freeing the mass of the people from invidious restraints. During the residence of the popes at Avignon, and during the continuance of the schism, the feeble rule exercised by the pontifical deputies over the ecclesiastical cities, enabled the inhabitants of those cities to defy the authority which endeavoured to confine their exertions within the limits of slavish subordination. The factions which disturbed the peace of the Italian republics, tended also in an eminent degree to call forth the full energy of abilities, which in other circumstances would have been buried in obscurity. Great talents are too frequently united with turbulence of spirit. In times when the order of society is inverted by the tumults of civil broils, while men of peaceful souls retire trembling from the conflict, he who is endued with the energy of genius, comes forth, conscious of his strength, and despising every danger, exults in the hope of vindicating his claim to promotion.'

Much incidental anecdote is introduced, respecting Poggio's literary correspondents, which has no direct relation to himself. The account of the silly quarrel between Leonardo Aretino and Niccolo Niccoli might have been spared; especially as it is not very happily detailed, and the extracts from Poggio's letters contain nothing worthy of notice. Horace has indeed said every thing that the subject requires:

> "*At pater ut nati, sic nos debemus amici,*
> *Si quod est vitium, non fastidire.* ——"

In the note on p. 181, Mr. Shepherd does not seem to be aware that *Ortuinus Gratius* was a macaronic title devised for *Hardouin de Graez*, the antagonist of Erasmus and Ulric of Hutten, and one of the chief objects of Hutten's Satire, in the *Epistolæ Obscurorum Virorum.*

Mr. S.'s observations on Poggio's account of some fanatics of his day are very judicious:

'He mentions, with due reprobation, a set of fanatical profligates, who propagating and acting upon the doctrine, that those who were in a state of grace were made perfect, and could not possibly commit sin, had lately debauched a considerable number of women in the city of Venice.

'In modern times, enthusiasts have the audacity, whilst they make a public acknowledgement of gross violations of the duties of morality, to proclaim their confidence, that their sins are forgiven, and to declare their firm persuasion, that whatever may be the complexion of their future conduct, they cannot forfeit the favour of the Almighty. Though it would be unjust to charge these men with an imitation of the actions of the sanctimonious Venetians, whose vile deeds are recorded by Poggio, certain it is, that their principles, if carried into practice, would grant a licence even to these flagrant acts of wickedness. Thus, in the wide circle of immorality, there is a point, where the extreme of enthusiasm and the extreme of libertinism meet together. When Reason is shaken from her throne, the passions make even Religion herself the promoter and the instrument of vice.'

The sixth chapter is almost entirely occupied with the quarrel of Poggio and Filelfo. We could have wished that this disgraceful contest had been thrown more into shade: but it is unfortunately one of the principal incidents of Poggio's life. A part of one of Filelfo's invectives in verse is tolerably well translated: but the length of the quotations on this subject is not compensated by their wit and elegance, though Mr. Shepherd has disguised their coarseness with more success than could have been expected. It must, indeed, occur to every reader of this book, that neither the intrigues of a pontifical secretary, nor the politics of a chancellor of Florence, can furnish adequate amusement for an age like ours, accustomed to contemplate some of the most awful events that ever interested mankind. The slight fluctuations of the Italian states are lost in the storms which threaten not Europe alone, but every part of the habitable globe.

In the course of the memoirs, Mr. Shepherd has introduced, in a very agreeable manner, an account of Poggio's different publications: in his criticisms on which, he might have derived considerable assistance from Strada's Prolusions, especially respecting the History of Florence.

Of the work best known in this country, the *Facetiæ*, we shall extract Mr. S.'s account, because it exhibits a more apt illustration of his style, on which we shall next have occasion to remark:

'This

'This work is highly interesting on account of the anecdotes which it contains of several eminent men, who flourished during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. In the course of its perusal, we find that many an humorous tale, which the modern jester narrates as the account of circumstances that occurred under his own observation, were of the number of those which caused the walls of the *Bugiale* to re-echo with laughter. Like all collections of the kind, the *Liber Facetiarum* contains, amongst a number of pieces of merit, some stories, in which we look in vain for the pungency of wit. When however we are inclined to condemn Poggio as guilty of the crime of chronicling a dull joke, we should remember, that *bons mots* frequently borrow their interest from aptness of introduction, and an humourous mode of delivery; and that though the spirit of a witticism, which enlivened the conversation of a Lusco or a Cincio, may evaporate when it is committed to paper, yet at the time when it was recorded by Poggio, it sported in his recollection with all the hilarity of its concomitant circumstances. But too many of the *Facetiæ* are liable to a more serious objection than that of dullness. It is a striking proof of the licentiousness of the times, that an apostolic secretary who enjoyed the friendship and esteem of the pontiff, should have published a number of stories which outrage the laws of decency, and put modesty to the blush; and that the dignitaries of the Roman hierarchy should have tolerated a book, various passages of which tend not merely to expose the ignorance and hypocrisy of individuals of the clerical profession, but to throw ridicule on the most sacred ceremonies of the Catholic church. In the selection of the *Facetiæ*, Poggio seems totally to have forgotten the wholesome advice which he had formerly bestowed upon Antonio Beccatelli. Recanati indeed endeavours to defend his fame, by suggesting the idea, that many of the most licentious stories were added to his collection by posterior writers; and he supports this opinion by asserting, that he has seen two manuscript copies of the *Facetiæ*, in which many of the obnoxious passages in question are not to be found. The validity of this defence is however rendered extremely questionable by the consideration of a fact, of which Recanati was probably ignorant, namely, that Lorenzo Valla, in the fourth book of his *Antidotus in Poggium*, which was published about the year 1452, not only impeaches the *Facetiæ* of blasphemy and indecency; but recites, by way of holding that work up to reprobation, the most scandalous stories which are now to be found in the whole collection.'

Of the literary claims of Pope Nicolas V., Mr. S. has scarcely said enough. He might truly be reckoned among the chief restorers of letters, and his merit was increased by the obstacles which he had to encounter.

After this general view of the present publication, it remains that we should speak more particularly of its style;—one of the great objects in professed compilations. It is clear and manly; free from inversions, and in general from affectation: but it is sometimes loaded with epithets, in the manner

of Gibbon, or with words sanctioned only by Johnson and his imitators. For much of this, however, we must blame the original matter. A redundant style, approaching to that of lapidary inscriptions, was cultivated by the writers of Latin, in the age of Poggio; and it was scarcely possible for his historian and translator to escape some degree of it: especially as our own language offers prevailing examples of similar faults. We should be glad to see a writer of memoirs in English spurn at the fetters with which prejudice has attempted to confine the language; and present us with a narrative original in its manner, and varying with its subject, without departing from our proper idiom. At present, the historical books composed in imitation of our more celebrated writers read like stiff translations. Mr. Shepherd has, indeed, enlivened his story by several extracts from Poggio's *Facetiæ*: but they do not well accord with the general gravity of the book.—Altogether, thinking thus favourably of Mr. Shepherd's performance, we shall be glad to meet him again, employed in some field more productive of a literary harvest.

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ART. VII. *A Letter to the Right Honourable Charles Abbot*, Speaker of the House of Commons; containing an Inquiry into the most effectual Means of the Improvement of the Coasts and Western Isles of Scotland, and the Extension of the Fisheries. With a Letter from Dr. Anderson to the Author, on the same Subject. By Robert Fraser, Esq. 8vo. pp. 104. 3s. Nicol. 1803.

SUCH momentous considerations are presented to us in this pamphlet, that we should be insensible to the interests of our country, and deficient in public duty, if we were to notice them in a light and cursory manner, or were long to delay our report of them. The subject of the British and Irish Fisheries has not obtained that attention which its high importance demands. When we reflect on our insular situation, and on the vast extent of our coasts, we appear negligent of the bounties of Providence in deducing so small a portion of our nourishment from the ocean. Fish, instead of being a luxury, might be produced in such abundance in all our markets as to constitute half of our food; and the price of other provisions would then in course be materially lowered. The sea, which is our natural defence, might thus by judicious industry be made a source of great prosperity; as it offers the means of sustaining an enlarged population and of encouraging occupations in days of peace, which, as naval nurseries, would always furnish sailors to man our wooden bulwarks in times of war. Ought such great and obvious advantages to be neglected? Can the legislature,

legislature be more profitably employed, than in directing and aiding the efforts of the people on our coasts to cultivate the rich field which is spread before them "in the great waters?" Independently of these general views, certain local circumstances imperiously demand some interference in behalf of the British Fisheries. Emigrations, to a serious extent, are reported to occur in the Highlands and Western Isles of Scotland *; which, if we may credit the testimony of intelligent and experienced men, would be effectually prevented, were the individuals allowed, without restraint, to avail themselves of those blessings which the liberal hand of Nature has placed within their reach. A fatal idea seems to prevail, that the great strength of a state exists in its revenue; and that to take care of this branch is effectually to uphold the national prosperity. We term this a *fatal* idea, because it is an inversion of the natural order of things. Considerations of revenue ought always to be subordinate to those of national prosperity; and every government departs from its true interest, when it imposes and continues such taxes as paralyse the hand of industry, and lock up that wealth which Providence stands ready to diffuse. The object of Mr. Fraser, in this letter to the Speaker of the House of Commons, is to invite the legislature to adopt a more enlightened and benevolent line of conduct; especially with regard to the inhabitants of the Highlands and Western Isles of Scotland, who are restrained by the present salt-duties from reaping any benefit from the seas, though they abound in fish which would supply their own wants and furnish an important article of commerce. The facts which he has diligently collected, as well as the remarks which accompany them, are very striking and ought not to be disregarded.

Assuming it as an indisputable political maxim, that the true power and riches of a state depend on the number and industry of the people, and that the greatest evils must result from destroying the source of population or driving it to swell the power of foreign nations, Mr. Fraser proceeds to an examination of the present state of the Coasts and Western Isles of Scotland; and, as he seems to be well acquainted with the districts which he describes, we perused his details with attention and concern. His account commences with a view of the prevailing disposition to emigration, which in some parts is fast approaching to a complete depopulation; and with assigning the reasons which are urged to justify this resolution.

* It is said that 25,000 people are likely to leave these countries in the course of the present year, in order to transport themselves to America.

'It is not, they allege, to the want of fertility in the soil, it is not to the disadvantage of climate, it is not from the want of subsistence, that the inhabitants of these countries have determined to transport themselves to America; it is high rents, the want of leases, the want of security for their property and the fruits of their labour, to which their poverty, want of industry, and their discontents are uniformly ascribed; and added to these, the oppressive operation of the duties and regulations respecting salt.' —These reasons he regards as in a great measure founded; and therefore he calls on the land-owners to make a joint effort with Government, in order to redress and alleviate grievances which operate so fatally for the country. If proper steps are taken, the maritime parts of Scotland (he is confident) will with ease sustain a population increased ten-fold*. To the Fisheries, he looks for the principal means of supply. 'The Seven United Provinces, (he observes,) which are altogether not larger than Yorkshire, yet, from their fisheries alone, for which they are not nearly so well situated as the Highlands and Isles of Scotland, supported a population equal to three times the number of inhabitants in the whole of North Britain. So that in fact these maritime parts of Scotland, so far from being over-peopled, do not contain one-tenth part of the population which they are able, with proper industry, to support.' To justify his hypothesis respecting the importance of the Fisheries, he says, in another place,

'Were a careful examination made of the extended coasts of the British isles and of the seas adjacent, or those within easy reach of the industry of the inhabitants, not only would new sources of wealth arise in the discovery of new fishing-grounds, but many situations would be found for the construction of harbours, and for the formation of towns well adapted to carrying on the old, as well as these new fisheries†, to an extent almost unlimited. Many situations would also be found, which, at comparatively a small expense, might be rendered

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* It is observed at p. 76. that, by the adoption of proper means, the number of people following a marine life in the United Kingdom may be augmented *twenty-fold*. Mr. F. is of opinion that, though Scotland be inferior to the Kingdom of Naples in point of fertility, it is capable, from the superior productiveness of its seas, of supporting an equal population. We cannot, however, accord with him in this sentiment. The climate of Naples calls for fewer wants, especially in the articles of clothing and fire, than that of Scotland, where the severity of the winter season demands much of both those requisites.

'† It is perfectly well known to numbers of gentlemen in the navy, that there is equal abundance of fish in the ocean surrounding the western coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, with that which is found in

rendered fit for stationing our fleets, and affording the most perfect protection to our trade and to our coasts.'

It is agreed by Dr. Anderson and Mr. Fraser, that *the total abolition of the salt duties* is a *sine quâ non* in giving due energy to the exertions of the inhabitants of the Scotish coasts. Both these gentlemen shew that the present restrictions operate in many instances as a complete prohibition on the fisheries; and examples are adduced to prove the melancholy effects of these duties:

'The herrings approach the coast in great shoals at particular seasons of the year, and are uncertain as to the time of their approach, and as to the time of their continuance; and although they are generally in greater or less plenty in some part or other of the coasts, yet they will sometimes not return to particular situations for several years together. From the waste on salt continued long in stores, from the difficulty of accounting for duty-free salt, there is scarcely any quantity of it on those coasts, unless where fish curers have erected red herring houses. But if these accounts and bonds were done away, salt, which can be purchased at the salt works at 4*d.* or 6*d.* per bushel, and imported into those countries for 10*d.* at most, would be laid up even by the lower class of fishers in small quantities, against the return of the herrings, and they would also have abundance for the purpose of curing the cod, ling, haddock, and other fish that are to be found every where on the coast, either by curing and drying these fish in the summer season, or by curing them wet in tubs or barrels in the winter.'

That it is a fact that the fishermen on the coast are in want of salt, the following incident recorded in a note, p. 49. will sufficiently manifest:

'In the autumn of 1791, (says Mr. F.) being on a voyage through these islands with the Earl of Breadalbane, we anchored in Loch Bay, where an establishment had been formed by the British Society, of which Lord Breadalbane was Deputy Governor. It was about the 23d of August. The herrings were in such abundance in the bay, that several hundred vessels could have been loaded with them, and the few boats that were on the coast could have caught any number. But they had no salt. His Lordship, wishing to examine the circumstances of the establishment, continued there for two days. The inhabitants went out and filled their boats with herrings; and coming

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in the northern seas. The only reason that they are not pursued is, that the natives of the Highlands and isles of Scotland and Ireland cannot go out at a distance from their shores in their hookers and open boats, to take them. It would be very useful to employ some of the many excellent surveyors that are at present to be found in the navy, to lay down with exactness these fishing grounds. A small attempt in one instance may be seen in a work I printed last year, entitled Gleanings, respecting the Agriculture, Mines, and Fisheries of Ireland, published by G. and W. Nicol, Pall-Mall.' (See Rev. Vol. xl. N. S. p. 78.)

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along side, offered us any quantity we pleased; the rest, after keeping a few for their families, they threw overboard. Lord B. was so much distressed to see them in want of salt, that he ordered all the salt in the ship, which amounted only to a cask or two, to be given to them, so that we really were in want of salt for the ship's use, and although we tried at every creek and bay we put into to get a very small quantity, we could find none until we got to Stornway.'

From a people so depressed by poverty, it is worse than absurd to think of drawing taxes. Before they become subject to fiscal imposts, they should be made capable of sustaining them. When men are brought by the fostering care of government to a state of competency and comfort, they may fairly be required to contribute by taxes to its support: but to endeavour to extend taxation to them before they are in circumstances to answer its demands, is in effect to oblige them to remain under the pressure of poverty, and to continue useless to the community. To prove how much the districts specified by Mr. F. may be ameliorated by the abolition of the salt-duties, he gives this account of the Isle of Man:

'To the Isle of Man, it appears that in the year 1799 there were 31,854 bushels of salt exported, and in the former year 37,982 bushels. This salt is made use of by the inhabitants, not only for curing fish to be sold, but for curing fish for their domestic use, and for all other purposes, without any restriction or account. The consequence of which is, that every man in that island endeavours to obtain a share in a boat, or in the nets, or becomes himself a fisherman, and in the beginning of the herring season he cures his share of the fish for his family, or if he has no share, purchases and cures a quantity which he calculates will be sufficient to supply his family for the year round. Having then his herrings, and trusting to his potatoe garden for its produce, he comforts himself with the prospect of a sufficient subsistence, and works cheerfully afterwards to catch fish, which he sells to the fish curers, merchants, and others, who come in great numbers to purchase herrings, to carry them to the adjacent coasts of England, Scotland, and Ireland.'—

'In the year 1765, the Isle of Man was annexed to the Crown, and the whole employment of the people in that island, consisting of a most extensive trade carried on from the importation of wines, brandies, East-India productions, articles for the slave-trade, and a thousand other kinds of goods, together with the occupations of packing and re-packing, warehousing and smuggling these goods to the adjacent shores of Great Britain and Ireland, was suddenly put an end to. Vast distress ensued; and although five thousand people emigrated from that island to Ireland, Scotland, and England, yet such was the distress of the remainder, that many actually died from want of necessaries, and Government were under the necessity of importing grain and flower for their subsistence.

'Next session, several acts of parliament were framed, allowing the inhabitants of that island to import a variety of articles of consumption

sumption under very small duties, and suffering their produce to be imported free of duty to Great Britain. But the great measure which produced an immediate and wonderful amelioration of their circumstances, was the *privilege* of IMPORTING SALT DUTY-FREE from England, not for *their fisheries* only, but for all *domestic purposes.*

'Encouraged by this indulgence, the inhabitants began instantly to apply to their fisheries, which had before been totally neglected. In the year 1769, the late Bishop Hildesly took an account of the number of the inhabitants in the island, which he found to amount to 17,500. In the year 1784, I had the honour to be appointed by the Treasury to make an enquiry into the state of the revenue and fisheries of that island. I found that at that period, without bounties on their boats, or the tonnage of their fishing smacks, or any premiums other than the free use of salt, they carried on a most extensive fishery, which employed 2500 seamen. In the absence of the herrings, the fishermen supplied the consumption of the island, in great abundance, with white fish, the agriculture was greatly increased, and the population consisted of 30,000 souls,* having nearly doubled the number of its inhabitants in fifteen years.

'It appears also that this prosperity has proceeded uninterrupted. By the evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons for the fisheries in 1798, it appears that the boats had increased both in number and size: instead of 10 and 12 tons, which used to be the average, they were then 16 and 22 tons burthen. Of these there were upwards of 350, carrying seven or eight men in each, besides from 40 to 50 fishing smacks of the burthen of from 20 to 50 tons each.† These boats and smacks employed upwards of 3000 seamen, which is equal to the number of men and boys employed in the whole of the Buss fishery of Scotland in the same period, supported at a bounty of upwards of 20,000l. per annum.‡

'It is further to be considered that the Isle of Man is only 32 miles in length by about 10 in breadth, and does not possess the advantages of the coasts and islands on the north-western parts of Scotland with regard to harbours and extensive inlets of the sea; neither does the adjacent sea possess fish equal in variety or abundance; nor can it be compared to many of these islands in extent of land capable of cultivation, nor perhaps in general fertility. The great prosperity of this island then is to be ascribed *chiefly to the free importation of salt.*'

To this statement, Mr. Fraser adds:

'If at the period when so great a change of circumstances took place in the Western Isles and Highlands of Scotland as that of the abolition of the feudal tenures, a similar indulgence had been extended to them, it cannot be doubted that a prosperity much greater would have taken place in those parts of Great Britain, inasmuch as they

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'* During a residence in that island of seven or eight years previous to that period, there was scarcely a beggar to be seen. And in 1782-3, when the people in the Highlands and Isles were in a state of famine, there was great plenty and abundance in the Isle of Man.'

'† Report of 1798, p. 166.' '‡ Ibid. p. 211.'

are

are better situated for carrying on both the herring and the white fisheries with advantage.'

He therefore humbly submits to the consideration of Parliament, that

'*Leave be given* to bring in a bill to allow, for three years, the importation of salt duty free, to be imported from Liverpool, or from the salt works on the eastern coast of Scotland, into the several ports of the counties of Argyle, Inverness, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Orkney, and Shetland Isles, and that the persons so importing the same may be allowed to store the said salt in any way whatever, and that the persons buying the said salt may be allowed to use the same for curing fish, flesh, and other domestic purposes, without being liable to account for the same, and they shall have free liberty to dispose or sell any fish or flesh so cured, without being subject to any fees, accounts, or entries whatever.'

We are so thoroughly convinced of the national importance of extending our fisheries, that we would argue that it ought to be attempted even though it should for the present be attended with an evident loss to the revenue: but Mr. Fraser proves that the loss, which would be produced by the measures which he recommends, is too inconsiderable to be mentioned. That part of Scotland to which his remarks apply, coming under the denomination of the Highlands and the Western Isles, consists of the Counties of Argyle, Inverness, Ross, Sutherland, Caithness, Orkney, and Shetland; and from these six counties, which include the whole of the Western Isles, and form an extent of territory equal to more than one-sixth of Great Britain, the net produce annually accruing from the duties on salt, on an average of ten years, amounted to no more than the sum of 172l. 6s.!!

With the removal, *altogether*, of the restraints and embarrassments arising from the duties on salt, Mr. Fraser unites a similar measure respecting the importation of coals; without which, any present *apparent* indulgence can be of no real benefit to the poor in these districts, because, though coals are allowed to be carried duty-free, the excise regulations inserted in the act render this permission nugatory. The subject is thus explained:

'The coal duty has indeed been abolished, but the master of the vessel is obliged, according to the forms of the Custom-house, to return a certificate that this coal has been landed according to the entry: this certificate must be made by a custom house officer. Therefore, instead of going along the coast, and selling a few barrels at one creek, and then proceeding to another, he must either go to where there is a custom house, or must wait until a custom house officer comes to see the vessel break bulk, and this officer it may be necessary to send for at the distance of 100 or 150 miles, and his expence, besides his fees, paid by the importer, which together may be more than the

the value of the cargo, and operates as an effectual prohibition for the greatest part of the country, and prevents any considerable advantage from this indulgence to the lower class of people, for whose relief this regulation was chiefly intended.'

Dr. Anderson relates a curious circumstance in his observations on this subject:

'You know that many years ago the duty on coals carried coastways in Scotland was taken off, and that one of the chief arguments for carrying that measure into effect, was the relief that it would afford to the poor Highlanders respecting fuel; yet it is a fact, that since that time representations of the misery of the people in this respect have been repeatedly made, and it has been fully ascertained, that in several cases they have been reduced to the necessity of stripping the thatch from their houses, to procure a small supply of miserable fuel, and thus exposing themselves to the danger of perishing from the inclemency of the weather, because no coals, *on account of the custom-house clearances*, could possibly be sent to them. The unavoidable certainty that this must be the case was pointed out, by me, to Sir William Pulteney, some months before the bill was brought into Parliament, and a clause suggested to him by which it might have been effectually obviated; but though it was approved of by that gentleman, and every other person to whom it was explained, the clause was omitted in the bill; and these people are of course, till the present hour, subjected to this evil, of which they have so long complained. It is in this way the inhabitants of those unhappy regions have been often tantalised by the enactment of laws which have been professedly made for the humane purpose of cherishing them, but which have not in fact contributed in any way to alleviate their distress.'

If such be the fact, can we wonder at emigration?

Mr. Fraser also recommends that encouragement be given to the proprietors of land to erect towns on their estates; and that Government shall appoint Commissioners for the purpose of assisting fishermen, by forming stations on the coasts and islands convenient for them, and by loans of small sums of money. He reprobates the expenditure of vast sums on futile projects; in which light he considers the proposed *Caledonian Canal*, designed to extend from Inverness to Fort William, and to be made large enough for frigates to pass, in order to obviate the necessity of navigating the Pentland Firth. Though 20,cool. have been voted for beginning this canal, Mr. F. repeats his objections, which seem to us to have some weight:

'Amongst other objections to the expenditure at present of public money on this undertaking, it has not been duly considered, that distress and losses in shipping navigating the Pentland Firth chiefly happen in the winter months; and *that in these months*, although Loch Ness and the other lochs with which the Caledonian Canal is to communicate do not freeze from their great depth of water, yet most certainly the branches of the canal joining these lochs and the sea

will be liable to be frozen during the greatest part of these months in which the passage of the Pentland Firth is accompanied by the dangers represented to the Committee; and consequently, that ships navigating these seas will not generally resort to a navigation subject to such an interruption, in preference to attempting the passage by the Pentland Firth: the danger of which would be much lessened by a harbour for large vessels being formed at Wick in Caithness, to which they could resort for shelter.'

We have no hesitation in saying that, in the present circumstances of the Highlands, it would be wiser to apply the money intended to be spent on this canal to other purposes. It is ridiculous, as Dr. A. remarks, to make expensive roads, where the people are so poor that all their property may be put in their pockets; or to excavate canals for large ships, when all the produce which they are able to export may be contained in a small boat.

On a former occasion, we applauded Mr. Fraser's zeal for the advancement of our Fisheries; and, as we fully enter into his truly patriotic and benevolent views, we ardently hope that his efforts will not be in vain.

Mo-y.

Art. VIII. *Hints for the Improvement of the Irish Fishery.* By George N. Whately. 8v. 1s. Hatchard. 1803.

We have here another labourer in the same vineyard, and a labourer also who is intitled to reward. Though Mr. Whately modestly professes to have little practical experience, he must, on the evidence before us, be pronounced to be well informed; and his Hints unquestionably merit the attention of the Irish people, and of those who preside over the Empire. After having expressed his astonishment that, while other branches of national economy have been explored and cultivated, our Fisheries should have been so overlooked and neglected; and particularly in Ireland, which enjoys more than ordinary advantages for this pursuit; he proceeds to an examination of the state of the Irish Fisheries as it respects the mode of capture, for the purpose of recommending the new method of hake-fishing, by the *trammel net* in preference to the use of the hook. This trammel is the invention of Thomas Walton, Esq. of Oysterhaven, near Kinsale; who, reflecting on the principle on which the herring and mackerel nets are constructed, conceived the idea of applying it in the caption of the larger descriptions of Fish. He therefore had a net thus contrived, and the experiment surpassed his most sanguine expectations. Observing his success, some of his neighbours were induced to follow his example; but the crews

crews of the *Hookers**, alarmed at the growth of this new heresy in the fishing art, and envious of the benefits resulting from it to its converts, attacked it with all the means of persecution that were in their power, and by their malice checked its progress. 'The usual mode adopted by these people was to sail with four or five vessels abreast, sweeping with their anchors, as they went along, which, getting involved with the Trammels, dragged them forcibly from the situations where they were moored.' Moreover, as these depredations were committed in the night, it was impossible to identify the offenders, and the existing laws afforded no protection against them; the trammel-fishers, therefore, sustained repeated injuries, without the prospect of redress. It is easy to foresee the consequences of such discouragements, unless they be vigorously counteracted.

In order to prove that the Trammel Fishery demands the protection of Government, Mr. W. gives a statement of the advantages which it possesses, comparatively with the mode now practised:

'The cost of a hooker† is from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and fifty pounds. It is navigated by four men and a boy, whose more usual method of caption, is by the exercise of the line. The success is not merely dependent on unrelaxed attention. The mariner must have the *superadded* good-fortune of meeting the objects of his research in a *biting* humour, otherwise his labour and watchfulness are exerted in vain. The finny tribe may play around his hook, bask in his view, but he will sometimes experience the desire and the disappointment of Tantalus‡.

'A set

* A Hooker is a small vessel with one mast, built for the purpose of fishing.

'† It is neither wished to supersede, nor would the trammel be the means of superseding the use of the hookers, which are variously engaged in several distinct and useful modes of fishing. On the contrary, I am convinced there is only a particular season, when the trammel could be employed with benefit. Still I am desirous of its obtaining that security, which will permit the free use of it, during the four months of the year when it will be attended with effect. It will be as eligible for the hookers to avail themselves of the privilege, as it will for the small boats. I am therefore contending for a right that will be common to both.'

'‡ When Mr. Walton commenced his experiments with the trammel net, on a very small scale, and before the hookers offered him any opposition, in the pursuit of his discovery, he frequently stationed his little boat alongside those vessels, and has repeatedly caught, in two hours, upwards of a hundred hake, when the boats around him did not obtain ten each during the night. A strong proof of the superior destruction these nets occasion to the fish. I will also just remark in this place, that the construction of the net rather protects the lesser description of fish, as they can pass through it, whereas the hooked bait

'A set of trammel nets, with a boat, will cost from thirty to thirty-five pounds. It employs four men, and requires no attention after being immersed, as it captures the fish whilst pursuing their natural course. It will admit sufficient leisure to the men to throw out their lines. It has *occasionally* taken ten times, *usually* thrice, the number of hake* in one night which the crews of the hookers had been toiling unremittingly to procure.

'If no other advantage belonged to the trammel, than on the score of expence; if no further benefit was sought from its discovery, *that alone* must be a sufficient inducement to favour its *pretensions;* as upon such a calculation it follows, that, during the season, four times the supply of fish would be obtained at the same charge. But, exclusive of any consideration of this kind, it is admitted by those who oppose it (and this, indeed, is the chief motive of their opposition) that the quantity of fish, thus taken, exceeds incalculably the number caught with lines. There are instances of these nets entrapping fifteen and eighteen hundred hake in the space of one night, when the greatest success of a hooker, that can, I believe, be adduced, during the most abundant season, in the same period of time, never amounted to six hundred. On an arithmetical ratio, it is evident, the lapse of time *must* limit the progress of the one, even were the hook to secure its prey *the moment* it reached the water, whilst it *cannot* that of the other until the net be entirely full †.'

In another part of the pamphlet, Mr. W. mentions his having been present at Baltimore, in the west of Ireland, when fifteen hundred hake were taken at a haul.

Reasoning on the information which these facts contain, surely we may be justified in asserting that our markets may be much more abundantly supplied with fish than they are at present; and that our fisheries should be encouraged by bounties, and by the remission of the salt-duties. Mr. W. recommends certain measures to protect the Trammels against the Hookers; who, if their absurd prejudices prevail, will prevent the Irish Fishery from being so extensive as Nature would allow, and as Policy requires.

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bait is equally attractive to the small as to the large—consequently the premature capture of the former is much greater by the line than by the trammel.'

* The *Gadus Merluccius* of Linné, a species of Cod.

'† Perhaps it is not one of the least of its good properties, that it requires no bait, for I have noticed great opportunities of success entirely lost from the want of that needful appendage to the hook.

'When I was at Baltimore, the scarcity, at times, was so great, that it was quite usual to exchange hake for herrings. To those who may not be acquainted with the size of the former, it may suffice to compare it to the exchange of a cod for a whiting.'

ART. IX. *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Peebles*, with various Suggestions as to the Means both of the local and general Improvement of Agriculture. By the Rev. *Mr.* Charles Findlater, Minister of the Parish of Newlands in the County of Peebles. With a Map of the County, and *other Engravings* *. 8vo. pp. 420. 7s. Boards. Printed at Edinburgh; sold by Longman and Co. London. 1802.

THOUGH this report was drawn up, at the request of Sir John Sinclair, for the consideration of the Board of Agriculture, its publication is not sanctioned by that body; and we owe its appearance to the liberal patronage which the author has obtained in a numerous list of subscribers. We are informed that, from the occurrence of circumstances '*uninteresting* to the public, the work was not published by the Board of Agriculture, as originally intended:' but, when the curiosity of the public is thus raised, it is not satisfied with vague allusions to unexplained circumstances. The reasons, which either induced the Board to depart from its usual practice in the present instance, or which prompted the author to withdraw himself from its protection, cannot be uninteresting, whatever motives of prudence or delicacy there may be for concealing them: but we are left in the dark by Mr. Findlater's note, and the reader is at liberty to indulge his own speculations. We must observe, however, that, whether this report did or did not obtain the complete approbation of the Board of Agriculture, it evidently manifests knowlege and investigation, together with a commendable zeal for the improvement of the district which the author undertakes to describe. The style, indeed, abounds with Scoticisms, for which the situation of the author must be pleaded as an apology; and if his statements be accurate, if he has performed the duty of a natural, economical, and agricultural historian, with attentive observation and sacred fidelity, we are not disposed to condemn his work for little verbal inelegancies.

Mr. Findlater commences his survey of Peebles-shire, or Tweeddale, with some introductory observations; whence he passes to an arrangement similar to that which has been adopted in those publications of the same nature, which we have repeatedly noticed; viz. Geographical State and Circumstances, —State of Property,—Buildings,—Mode of Occupation,—Implements,—Enclosing,—Arable Lands,—Grass,—Gardens and Orchards,—Woods and Plantations,—Wastes and Commons,—Improvements,—Live Stock,—Rural Economy,—Political Economy, as connected with or affecting Agriculture,—

* We find only a single engraving, and that is miserably executed.

Obstacles to Improvement,—and Miscellaneous Observation.— Under these general heads, with their various subdivisions, much important and curious information is given. Some extracts will enable the reader to judge of the author's merit.

The situation, extent, soil and surface, minerals and springs, are thus described:

'The county of Tweeddale, or Peebles, is situated betwixt 55 deg. 24 min. and 55 deg. 50 min. of north latitude; and from 2 deg. 45 min. to 3 deg. 23 min. of longitude, west from London; or betwixt ♌-15 and ♌-23 west of the meridian of Edinburgh. It is bounded, upon the north, by the county of Mid-Lothian; upon the east, by that of Selkirk; upon the south, by that of Dumfries; upon the west, by that of Lanark. Its greatest length, from north to south, is about 30 miles; its greatest breadth, from east to west, about 22. The contents, (*See Statistical Tables,*) in English acres, amount to 229,778; or in Scotish, (at the rate of conversion, of 5 English to 4 Scotch acres,) to 183,823.'—

'The lowest lying arable land in the county, situated upon the side of the Tweed, where that river leaves the county, and enters Selkirkshire, *will be* about 400 feet above sea-level. Betwixt 900 and 1000 feet, is probably the highest elevation in which cultivation is attempted by the plough.

'The highest hill in Tweeddale (probably the highest in Scotland south of the Friths of Forth and Clyde) is *Hartfield*, in Tweedsmuir parish, upon the confines of Dumfries-shire; its height above sea-level is, according to Armstrong, 2916 feet; that of *Hartstane Broad Law*, in the same parish, is 2850; *Dollar Law*, in Mannor parish, is 2840. Armstrong, in his companion to his map, gives a variety of the heights of highest summits of those ridges of hills which traverse the county in all directions, extending from 1800 to 2300 feet above the level of the sea. Abstracting, then, the highest summits, the generality of the pasture lands may be considered as situated at from 500 or 600, to 1700 or 1800 feet above sea-level; or at 1150 feet at a medium.

'The climate, in such northerly latitude and high elevation, may readily be conceived as late; and, from the mountainous nature of the country, as moist. Sown-grass hay begins to be cut rather after the middle of July; that from natural grass, about the middle of August. Corn harvest seldom commences, generally, till the second week of September; and it is accounted rather an early harvest, when the whole is got into the Winter stack before the close of October. The reapers from the Highlands of Scotland generally find employment for several weeks in Tweeddale, after the termination of the Lothian harvest; the difference being observed as greater in favour of these lower counties in a bad, than in a good season.'—

'The higher the elevation, the greater is the degree of moisture, and the crops are found to run more to straw and less to corn.'—

'Cold

'Cold easterly winds often prevail during the Spring months; and it may be questioned, whether we have not, in general, more grass in the first half of December, than in May.'—

'Our Winters are rigorous; and the turnip crop is, of consequence, often lost, unless consumed by Christmas or New Year's day. Cattle do not fatten upon them in their frozen state; it is well if they merely do not lose flesh. In the higher parishes, they are often frozen to such hardness, that they must be allowed to thaw in running water, before the cattle can make impression upon them with their teeth.

'Besides the general frosts in Winter, the higher parishes are much exposed to a species of partial frosts in the end of August and beginning of September, which chiefly affect the low-lying lands by the sides of running waters, lakes, and morasses. A low creeping mist, or hoar frost, (called, provincially, *rhyme*, or *cranreugh*,) in a dead calm, particularly after a tract of rainy weather, is seen to settle, after sunsetting, upon lands of this description; which, if succeeded by bright sunshine the day following, proves destructive to all further vegetation. It would seem to do little damage to corns that *are* hard ripe; and in regard to some species, particularly that of oats, it does not prevent their further maturation, if it attacks them whilst the juices in the ear are still in a watery state: But, in the intermediate stages betwixt that state and maturity, it renders every species alike unfit for seed, and of very inferior value for meal, both in respect of quantity and quality.'—

'The climate of Tweeddale is not very propitious to fruit trees. The gooseberry, raspberry, currant, and strawberry, are the best fruits produced in our gardens. The raspberry is a native, and ripens its fruit in the highest parishes. The bramble is a very rare plant, excepting in the lower end of the county; and I am not ascertained that it brings its fruit to perfect maturity in any season. The hazel does not ripen its nut to perfection in the higher parishes, unless in very favourable seasons.'

By this view of the climate, the English farmer will not be tempted to migrate to the North.

Of the soil and surface, it is observed that

'By far the greater part of the soil of Tweeddale never was, nor probably ever will, be turned up by the plough. Of the lands under culture, there is great variety of soil; such as moss, clay, sand; moss and clay, moss and sand, clay and sand; and these mixtures, in every variety of proportion.'—

'In its general appearance, the county, though wild, can hardly be designed romantic: the mountains, though high and large, and too much upon the vast for beauty, are yet too tame for the sublime. There is nothing abrupt—nothing terrific—nothing, in short, to strike forcibly the imagination of the poet, or the painter; unless, indeed, the feelings of a native, blunted by familiarity and repetition, should be questioned, as a proper standard of judgement.

'The variety of hill, and dale, and water, might furnish scenes of great natural beauty, or even grandeur, were it not for the almost

total want of natural wood. For though tradition reports, that a great deal of wood once grew in the county, at present few vestiges of it remain; and where any are found, upon the banks of the waters and skirts of the hills, it is mere brushwood, consisting chiefly of Birch miserably stinted in growth, some species of grey willow, hazel bushes, and a few mountain ashes, with sometimes a fringe of dwarfish alders marking the courses of the rivulets. It may, no doubt, be reckoned unfair to judge of what the natural wood might have been, by the remnant that now appears: The former wood may have been grubbed out for fuel, or to make room for pasture or the plough; and what now remains, may have been stinted in its growth by the repeated cropping of the sheep: The trees, however, found in mosses (the only specimens of the wood of former times), are generally, it must be confessed, of diminutive size.'

The enumeration of mineral productions includes white freestone, whinstone, slate, limestone, coal, and ironstone: to which it is added that

'Chalybeate springs, with blue scum, iron taste, and ochry sediment, every where abound in the parishes of Linton and Newlands. One of these, called *Heavenagua Well*, in Linton parish, is, I have been told, equally strong as the waters of Tunbridge. A spring was, within these fifteen years, discovered near the village of Inverleithan, containing both salt and sulphur, and said to be of the same nature as the waters of Harrowgate. It is considerably resorted to; and several houses, of two stories, have been built in the village, for accommodation. The yield of the spring, in dry weather, is at the rate of about one chopin (English quart) in the minute. Before its properties were attended to, the place where its waters oozed through the ground was much frequented by pigeons, and the spot had obtained the name of *the Pigeons Well*.'

On the waters of this county, many mills of different kinds are erected; of which, thrashing mills bear a considerable proportion; not to mention others that are worked by horses.

In the chapter on the state of property, Mr. F. informs us that the whole landed property, four-fifths of which is under strict entail, is divided among about 60 proprietors; that, as the country consists chiefly of hill pasture lands, producing an herbage scanty and poor in quality, and more fitted, in general, for rearing sheep than for fattening them, a large extent is necessary to constitute any considerable value; that the number on the roll of freeholders is generally from thirty to thirty-five, who send one representative to parliament for the county; and that the tenures, by which lands are holden, may be classed into *superiority*, *property*, and *tack* or *lease*. As the former term may require explanation for most readers, we shall give Mr. F.'s account of it:

'Supe-

'*Superiority* is merely that nominal title to land, which confers the right of franchise. As 400l. valuation of superiority confers franchise, and as, in Scotland, superiority may be retained, when the property of the land is conveyed away, and this superiority may also be fictitiously conveyed in any given portions, it is evident, that, in creating votes, the superiority of the whole valuation, 51,927l. Scots, would give 129 voters at the county election: As, however, the number commonly upon the roll of freeholders does not exceed 30 or 35, it may be readily inferred, that this county has not been much disturbed by the animosities of political contest.'

We shall pass by the houses of the proprietors, which are about 30 in number, to notice the account of the Scotch cottage, its furniture, and the mode of living which prevails in it:

'Half a century ago, a great part of the cottages of the Scots day-labourers were built with walls of turf; stone buttresses, or wooden posts, built into the wall, supporting the heavy timbers of the roof: A very few of this description still exist in this county; but the greater part are built of stone and lime The general description of the cottage of a labourer or tradesman, who keeps a cow, is, a house of 18 or 20 feet by 15 or 16 within walls; the door is in front, close by one of the gables; two close beds form the cross partition, dividing the space occupied by the family from a space of four feet from the gable at which you enter, where stands the cow behind one of the beds, with her tail to the door of the house. There is one window in front near the fire gable, opposite to which, at the opposite wall, stands the *ambry*, or shelved wooden press, in which the cow's milk, and other family daily provision are locked up; and, above it, lying against the slaunt of the roof, is the *skelf*, or frame, containing shelves, with cross bars in front, to prevent the utensils set upon its shelves from tumbling off from its overhanging position; the show of the house depending much upon the quality and arrangement of the crockery and other utensils placed thus, in open view, upon the skelf. A chest, containing the family wardrobe, stands in front of one of the close beds, serving also for seats. The close beds are also furnished with a shelf at head and foot, upon which part of the family apparel is deposited, to preserve it from the dust. A wooden armed chair for the husband, when he arrives fatigued from his labour, and a few stools for the rest of the family, and a plunge churn, completes the inventory of household furniture; to which only a small barrel for salted flesh, and another for meal, may be added, if the family can afford to lay in stores and are not from hand to mouth. The cooking utensils are, a small cast-iron pot, in which is daily prepared the oatmeal porridge, the universal breakfast, eaten with milk, or with home-brewed weak ale from treacle, when the milk season is over; in which also the potatoes are boiled, as the universal supper, while they last, eaten either with milk, or merely with salt; in which is also prepared for dinner, through Winter, potatoes dressed with mutton-suet purchased for the purpose, or broth

to be eaten with bread, made universally with shelled barley, and kale from the kale yard, and, according to circumstances, either with or without a bit of salted mutton, to give them a relish; the butter from the cow being all sold fresh, from the high price it bears in such vicinity to Edinburgh, being the chief dependence for money to pay for the cow's Summer's grass, and to purchase her Winter's fodder; the skimmed milk only being used in the family, in the manner already stated; or, when most plenty in Summer, serving for dinner broth. The next indispensable cooking utensil, universally in use in every cottage and in every family in the country, is the *girdle*, which is a round thin plate, either of malleable, or of cast-iron, from a foot to two feet and an half in diameter, according to the size of the family. It is suspended over the fire by a jointed iron arch with three legs, called the *clips*, the ends of the legs of which are hooked, to hold fast the girdle. The clips is linked upon a hook at the end of a chain, called the *crook*, which is attached to an iron rod, or wooden beam, called the *rantle-tree*, which is fixed across the chimney-stalk, at some distance above the fire. Upon this girdle is baked the ordinary bread of the cottager, and of the farmer's servants, consisting of *bannocks* made of the meal of peas, or of barley, but more generally of the two meals together, and more rarely of oats. The meal is made into dough with water without leaven, and the dough is formed into circular cakes of from 7 to 9 inches diameter, and from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in thickness; it is then toasted first on one side, then the other, upon the girdle; and two or three days provision are made at once: The bread has but a doughy taste. The oat cake, known by the sole appellative of *cake*, is the gala bread of the cottager: The meal is made into dough with water, without leaven, as little water being used as is merely sufficient to make the meal stick together; the dough is then kneaded, or rolled out, as thin as possible, into a round cake, of diameter corresponding to the size of the girdle; the cake is then cut into four quadrants, and toasted on the girdle, alternately, on both sides, care being taken, both with cakes and bannocks, to prevent the girdle from being so hot as to burn their surface: When the cake is so hardened as to stand on edge, it is placed upon an iron heater, linked upon a bar of the grate, where it toasts leisurely, till it is perfectly dry, though noway burnt; if it hath lain some days unused, it is toasted anew before it is eaten; it thus constitutes a hearty species of bread, of a tonic quality, to judge by the taste; and which, by many Scotsmen in the higher ranks, is preferred to wheaten bread. There is just one other utensil indispensable to the cottager; which is, a very small barrel, or can, of stone ware, to hold his salt, which he keeps in a hole in the wall close by his fire, to prevent its running, from the moisture in the air: He must also have a wooden pail to carry water; in which his cow is milked, if he has one; on which supposition, too, he must have three cans of stone ware, or vessels of cooper's work, in which the milk is set in the ambry to stand for casting up the cream.

In the body of the work, and in the subjoined notes, we have a long detail of the state of the Scotch church; from which we

we extract the following table, shewing the provision of the Tweeddale clergy:

'The victual part of the stipend, generally one half oatmeal, and the other, beer in grain, is here converted at the rate of 15s. per boll. The glebes are valued at 1l. per acre, Scots; that of Peebles at 2l. Excepting where they can, without inconvenience, be kept in grass, the possession of a glebe may, however, be considered as constituting an article of expence, rather than of profit, to the clergyman: as, when kept under tillage, a preparation for labour must be maintained in readiness, of which the return of produce from such a small possession cannot defray the expence. The money stipend includes from 3l. to 5l. allowed the minister for the expence of administering the sacrament of the Lord's supper, called communion elements. No valuation is put upon the minister's manse or dwelling-house.

PARISHES.	PATRONS.	PROVISION OF THE CLERGY.			
		Money Stipend.	*Bolls of Victual.*	*Acres Scots in Glebe.*	*Whole Value of Living.*
		L. s. d.			L. s. d.
Linton	D. of Queensberry	56 13 4	110	13½	152 13 4
Newlands	Do.	64 0 0	96	16	148 0 0
Lyne and Megget	Do.	104 3 4	—	14	121 3 4
Broughton	Do.	56 0 0	48	22	114 0 0
Glenholm	Do.	46 13 4	96	9	127 13 4
Tweedsmuir	Do.	75 0 0	48	10	121 0 0
Drummelzier	Do.	74 2 0	74	10	139 12 0
Manner	Do.	91 16 10	—	24	115 16 10
Peebles	Do.	100 0 0	64	6	160 0 0
Inverleithan	Do.	70 18 6	65½	10	130 1 0
Kirkurd	Mr. Carmichael	70 0 0	—	19	89 0 0
Skirling	Do.	50 11 0	80	8	118 11 0
Kilbucho	Col. Dickson	55 0 0	80	11	126 0 0
Eddlestone	Lord Elibank	68 17 0	80	25	153 17 0
Traquair	The Crown	58 16 0	88	11½	136 6 0
Stobo	Sir Ja. Montgomery	68 0 0	64	21	137 0 0
Total -	-	1110 11 4	993½	230	2000 13 10

'Several of the Duke of Queensberry's patronages are sold. The parishes of Glenholm, Kilbucho, and Broughton, are annexed together, as the incumbencies shall cease.'

On the subject of Inclosing, Mr. F. presents some remarks which, though peculiarly applicable to Scotland, merit attention, in many instances, south of the Tweed:

'In hearing of the measure, agitated in England, of a bill for general enclosure, it surprises a Scotsman, when he is informed that the bill is intended for the purpose of dividing into separate distinct properties, the lands held at present in conjunct property and possession:

sion: he is led, neither by the laws nor the practice of his country, to consider the enclosure of common-lands, as inseparably connected with their division: He is therefore disposed to interpret *enclosure* in a metaphorical sense, as implying the mere ideal enclosure of the divided lands within the comprehension of separate property. If in Scotland, as in England, *actual enclosing* were necessarily to follow upon division; this incurred obligation to enclose, would have proved, in general, an absolute bar to all application for division; as, in most of cases, the fee-simple of the commonties to be divided, would not have sufficed for the expence of separate enclosure.

'There are, in Scotland, general laws relative to division, *solely*; by which, upon application to the Court of Session, from any of the parties having interest, a division, according to respective interest in the subject, proceeds, after a manner both simple and unexpensive. But no obligation to enclose results from the act of division: there are separate laws for enclosure; and to these, recourse may be had, when the interest of those concerned shall suggest to them the propriety of such a measure.'

Much money is often idly expended in England, by making actual inclosure a measure necessarily subsequent on division. In corn districts, large open spaces are preferable to inclosures; and frequently nothing more is required by the farmer, than that the property which he occupies shall be contiguous, instead of scattered, as is often the case in minute subdivisions.

The crops commonly cultivated in Peebles-shire are, 1st, those which are ameliorating, as potatoe, turnip, peas, and artificial grasses; and 2dly, those which are exhausting, as oats, bigg, and barley. Wheat is not cultivated in the higher parishes, for want of proper climate; nor in the lower, as being too exhausting for the soil.

It is impossible not to smile when we come to the chapter intitled Gardens and Orchards: because, though mention is made of three hot-houses, and of one garden in a particularly favourable position, which produces two crops of peas in a year, the county cannot boast of a single orchard.

The chapter on Rural Economy contains a very brief section on *Provisions*, the whole of which we transcribe, in honour of Scotch economy:

'To what has been observed on this subject, under the article of *Farm Houses and Cottages*, it may be added, that, in sheep farms, the sheep dying of disease are used as flesh meat, under the designation of *traik*.'

According to the population-table at p. 239, containing an abstract of the returns made in pursuance of the act passed in 1801, it appears that the population of the county of Peebles amounts to 8802.

Among the obstacles to improvement, the author enumerates deficiency of capital,—prejudices,—the want of proper subdi-

vision of labour,—the want of storing up grain,—the prohibition of the exportation of wool,—corn laws,—game laws—bad roads,—and, above all, the want of richness of soil and benignity of climate. This last evil, he allows, admits not of a complete cure, though of some palliation: a consideration that must diminish the interest which the public would otherwise take in this survey, and must prevent any sanguine hope of improvement; since, where the population is thinly dispersed, and the soil and climate are unfavourable, exertion must be limited, and the benefits to be derived must be uncertain and inconsiderable.

Mo-y.

ART. X. *Sermons.* By William Stevens, D.D., Rector of Great Snoring, and St. Peter's Walpole, County of Norfolk; Morning Preacher at Grosvenor Chapel; &c. &c. 3 Vols. 8vo. 1l. 1s. Boards. Cadell and Davies.

EACH of these volumes contains twelve sermons. They are introduced by a discourse from Matt. xxiii. 34. on *the Guilt of Slighting Instruction*, which offers many just and useful reflections; and this is followed by six others, from Titus ii. 11, 12, 13, 14, disposed under the subsequent titles: "Salvation by the Grace of God:' 'Christian Morality:' 'The Second Coming of Christ, a principal Foundation of Christian Hope:' 'Redemption by Christ considered and explained:' 'The Gospel Covenant:' 'Christian Zeal.' In the discussion of these subjects, several valuable remarks occur. It is well known that Jewish imaginations had formed a very different Messiah from that which Christianity presented; yet, though they had but slight apprehensions of a *spiritual* deliverer, it does not so certainly and clearly appear, as our author seems to apprehend, that this people concluded that prosperity on earth was an indication of future felicity; or, as it is here farther expressed, 'Thus the rich thought themselves secure of eternal bliss: the poor, on the contrary, were in a kind of hopeless and despondent state.' Dr. Stevens applies this consideration to the universality of the evangelical institution; and in this manner he explains the phrase, *hath appeared to all men*, or those of every condition, particularly meaning those in inferior stations. It had been thought, says he, to be 'some degree of presumption in any one who was in a state of indigence or distress, to believe that he was an object of divine favour.' While, therefore, other instances of the universal salvation offered by the Gospel are undoubtedly comprehended, he conceives that 'the case of the poor was the apostle's present subject, and had the first place in his thoughts at this time:'—The preceding verses of the chapter, which relate to servants, (and, as it might have been

been added, to slaves,) afford support to his opinion;—and, since the Christian scheme embraces in this benevolent manner those of all nations, of every class and condition, with each individual among them, he proceeds (in our view, with great propriety and truth) to observe;

'This may be an evidence to us, that weak, illiterate mechanics and fishermen could not be the authors of it; for such men, though sometimes absurdly and ridiculously aspiring, are never actuated with such unprecedented vanity or ambition, as to set before them a boundless chimerical scheme, which the greatest monarchs, the ablest politicians, and the most enthusiastic religionists, never so much as attempted or thought of before. Or even if we should suppose it probable, that such obscure men might be thus vain and ambitious beyond example, yet, by what means could they hope to succeed in their enterprize? They had no treasure to bribe others to become their adherents: they had no power to compel them; no learning to convince them; no eloquence to persuade them; no address to entice them; no art to deceive them: and yet, under all these improbabilities, difficulties, and disadvantages, they really accomplished what they undertook, without either treasure, to bribe; or power, to compel; or learning, to convince; or eloquence, to persuade; or address, to entice; or art, to deceive. They delivered a system of moral and religious doctrines fit for all men to receive, and in which all men are concerned. They prevailed on mankind every where to examine and embrace their doctrines. Their proselytes were innumerable, and so widely diffused, that, in less than forty years after the death of Christ, we have reason to believe, 'Christianity had established itself in every nation of the then known world.'

Allowing it to be true that this new doctrine had, in so short a compass of time, attained so wonderful a progress, and taken root in many different countries, it has notwithstanding been urged that it has 'never yet been an universal religion;' in reply to which, Dr. S. remarks that Christianity leaves men free agents as it finds them:

'It attempts not to compel any person; if it did, it would defeat its own end, for compulsion and religion are utterly inconsistent with each other. And therefore, when the Scriptures tell us, that it is designed to be universal, it is not meant, that every individual of the human species shall profess it. The Author of it knew that it would always have many adversaries, and he taught his followers the same: consequently, when it is said to be universal, we are to understand that it is of universal use, and is universally proposed; that if men were impartial, it would be received by every one; that it is fit for all nations, and all ranks and orders of men; and adapted to all circumstances; that every one is required to embrace it, and perform obedience to all its precepts; and that this consideration of the utility and importance of its doctrines will, in time, induce the greatest part of mankind to receive it: that, in the mean while, it is in a progressive state, and was not designed to attain this extensive influence,

fluence, and meet with this universal reception in an instant: that a succession of ages, and many favourable incidents, are necessary to prevail with so many nations as the world is composed of, with so many prejudices, passions, and interfering interests, to take on them a religion which requires the renunciation of all these, and to bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. That this diffused and extensive influence of the evangelical dispensation is possible, cannot be denied; for nothing is impossible to the unerring wisdom and infinite power of God. That it is probable, may appear from a similar circumstance foretold by our Saviour, that the Gospel should be preached in all the nations of the then world before the destruction of Jerusalem. Which, though it be not necessary to understand the prediction in a sense that is strictly literal, we have good reason to believe, was literally fulfilled. And that it certainly will be thus widely diffused, we cannot doubt, if we reflect that God hath given us his infallible promise to that effect.—What most concerns us, and all professed Christians in every part of the world, is, to make the Gospel universal to ourselves; that is, to receive all its truths without exception, and to practise all its duties without hypocrisy; encouraging the truly Christian hope, that the period will arrive, when, "at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The sermon on Zeal, which closes this division, is discriminating and useful; and that which immediately follows, on the offering of Isaac, well deserves to be distinguished. Whether there was or was not, in this uncommon transaction, any thing typical of the Saviour of men, we presume not to determine: but the Scriptures do not appear to direct us to such a conclusion.—Four other subjects are canvassed in this volume: 'A Resurrection taught by Moses,' Luke xx. 37, 38: 'Our future Similitude to Christ:' 'The Divine Nature of Christ:' 'False Christs and false Prophets;' in which last, the author inquires 'in what respects miracles are to be considered as evidences of the true Messiah, and what merit those persons had, who received Jesus as the Messiah on the authority of such miracles; and how far they were culpable, who were deceived by false Christs, and false prophets.'

The second volume opens with a discourse on 'the Insufficiency of Human Wisdom;' and the great object of it is, to support the conclusion which many pious men have entertained; 'that unassisted, uninstructed natural reason, is not able to arrive at the knowledge of the true God.' It contains many appropriate observations.—In the next, on 'Christian Wisdom and Christian Simplicity,' it is remarked that 'we see no extraordinary evidences of wisdom in the serpent (Matt. x. 16.) at this day; nor had he probably more wisdom in proportion than other creatures in paradise. Nevertheless, the opinion being

popular and universally received, Christ adopts it as a proper and pertinent allusion on the occasion. Indeed, both he and his apostles frequently do the same, with regard to other popular notions, which are neither necessary and infallible truths, nor were argued on, or intended to be received as such.'—From the succeeding discourse, the reader might be led to suppose that the Psalmist had offered an improper request, when he says, Psalm v. 8. 'Make thy way *plain* before my face:'—for the writer applies himself principally to evince that the way of duty is rendered so clear by divine revelation, that farther light needs not to be desired: yet, allowing this to be true, how numerous are the occurrences in the general course of life, which will and must lead persons to wish for direction and assistance, and incline them to regard the advice, 'to ask wisdom of God!' Towards the close, this idea is briefly introduced, but perhaps not discussed suitably to the full meaning and spirit of the supplicant *.

'The Joy of a Good Conscience,' 2 Cor. i. 12. presents a very important subject, and is treated in an able manner; though, it may be thought, not with complete sufficiency. A very serious and striking admonition is presented in the following passage; and it will be happy for the world, should it prove, in fact, too severe!

'As to the common mass of mankind, who live by instinct or custom, who maintain a mere decent deportment, who set no other motive before them than interest or vanity, and regard only convenience or reputation, such persons have no testimony of conscience at all: and even the stings of a bad conscience are preferable to such a state as that: for there is hope that they who undergo the anguish and torment of conscious wickedness, and a self-condemned heart, may in time be brought, by what they feel, to a state of reformation, to a rational and religious demeanour; and thus may, by degrees, come to possess that greatest of all terrestrial blessings, peace of mind, and the consolations of a rectified conscience. But the mere showy rectitude of superficial regularity suggests no such hope: conscience is not in the least concerned in such a conduct, and therefore gives no testimony. Such men may enjoy the transient satisfaction of having succeeded in their schemes, and attained the end they proposed to themselves: but this satisfaction depends altogether on success; for, as we said before, if they fail of the success they promise themselves, they then experience no satisfaction in reflecting on their designs; whereas the consolations of conscience are felt most at those seasons in which earthly consolations desert us. And unless such persons can be brought to a sense of their folly and sin in having thus proceeded on such mis-

* Qu. Which agrees best with the original?—*plain*, as it is found in the Book of Common-Prayer;—or *straight*, as it stands in the English Bibles now in use?

taken

taken principles, there is no probability that they will ever understand what conscience is; or ever experience the joy or spiritual exultation that springs from a well regulated heart, and a uniform desire of obtaining the approbation of God.'

'The Cheerful Nature of Religion' supplies a subject for two sermons, which are succeeded by two others from Proverbs xix. 3. 'Man's unhappiness chiefly dependent on himself:' but we must now satisfy ourselves with barely mentioning the titles;—Folly of Sin;—Advantage of Godliness;—Shortness of Life;—Future Punishments. The last contains some remarks peculiarly worthy of attention.

It is more than time that we hasten to a brief view of the third volume; which must consist of little more than a recital of the subjects discussed in it: viz. Friendship; Anger; Suicide, two discourses; Self-sufficiency; External Profession; Faith; Sects; Resignation, two sermons; and Religious Affliction productive of public as well as private Blessings. Of this number, the first two are among the best, though others contain admonitions truly useful and highly worthy of regard: but there are inequalities. The discourse on *Sects* affords but a partial view of the subject, yet it unites with many passages in the volumes to prove the author's inclination to moderation and liberality.

On the whole, this publication is intitled to a favourable acceptance from pious readers, and corresponds with that countenance which it has received from a large number of subscribers. The style, if it does not attain superiority, is plain, easy, and agreeable: verbal and critical examinations do not often occur: but the writer appears to be a man of learning, from the citations adduced either to illustrate or to confirm his remarks. While urging established doctrines, he forgets not to be the warm and unceasing advocate for Christian piety and morality in all its extent; and he employs those expressions on the subject of good works, which prove him to be more solicitous of advancing the practice of virtue than of stimulating theological contention.

Hi.

ART. XI. *Travels in the United States of America;* commencing in the Year 1793, and ending in 1797. With the Author's Journals of his two Voyages across the Atlantic. By William Priest, Musician, late of the Theatres, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Boston. 8vo. 5s. Boards. Johnson.

IN a series of inartificial letters to his friend in England, Mr. Priest has interwoven the principal occurrences of his passage to and from America, and during his residence in the United

United States. A journal of the voyage across the Atlantic presents, as may be imagined, little that is interesting to the public: but some of the author's remarks on the nature of the country, and of his information on various topics respecting America, will be found worth the perusal.

At the period at which Mr. Priest undertook his expedition to the United States, the yellow fever had already made dreadful havoc among the inhabitants of Philadelphia; and the vessel in which he arrived was obliged, in consequence of all communication with the city being cut off, to come to anchor five miles below it. When he afterward visited that afflicted town, it was a truly melancholy scene to behold the dejected state of the inhabitants; their houses were mostly shut up, and the deserted streets grown over with grass.—Among other anecdotes of this place, we meet with a whimsical character of the name of Peter Brown, whose coat of arms furnishes the frontispiece of this volume:

'Peter Brown, a blacksmith of this city, having made his fortune, set up his coach; but so far from being ashamed of the means by which he acquired his riches, he caused a large *anvil* to be painted on each pannel of his carriage, with two naked arms in the act of striking. The motto, "*By this I got ye.*"

During his residence in Jersey, Mr. Priest took considerable pains to inform himself respecting the difficulties and obstacles which surround a back settler. It appears that by much industry, and by fortunate circumstances concurring, a man may be enabled to support himself and his family in some degree of independence: but that there will be found many drawbacks on his happiness, from the want of several of the necessaries of life, from the inability to procure relief in case of sickness, and, above all, from the terror of hostile depredations from the neighbouring Indians.

On his arrival at Baltimore, Mr. P. witnessed the prevalence of the same malignant fever which desolated Philadelphia: but, before his departure from this latter place, he had the satisfaction of seeing the trade of the city renewed by the restored health of its inhabitants. A striking instance is here adduced, of the increase of population within a few years:

'The following anecdote will give you some idea of the growth of the town, and amazing increase in the value of land:—

'An English gentleman, who emigrated to this country some years ago, built a small *country seat* on the side of the race ground; this house is now in the possession of a colonel Rogers, and in the *centre street of Baltimore.* The colonel has sold the wings for two thousand guineas to build upon, and still retains the house.'

In

In a subsequent letter from Baltimore, we have this account of the manufactories of the country:

'The manufactories in this country that have fallen under my observation are one of rifles at Lancaster, another of musquets at Connecticut, and at German Town, in Pennsylvania, a peculiar sort of winter stockings. An American has lately procured a patent from Congress, for cutting brads out of sheet iron with an engine. The American iron is of an excellent quality, and possesses a great degree of malleability, which perhaps suggested the first idea of this invention. The following extract from the advertisement of the patentee will enable you to form some judgement of this singular undertaking: "He begs leave to observe their superiority to English-wrought brads consists in their being quite regular in their shape, so much so, that ten thousand may be drove through the thinnest pine-board, without using a brad awl, or splitting the board. They have the advantage also of being cut *with the grain* of the iron; others are cut *against* it. He has already three engines at work, which can turn out two hundred thousand per day."

'Another patent has been granted for making the teeth of cotton and wool cards by an engine, which is supposed to be a similar process.

'There are also manufactories of cotton, sail-cloth, gun-powder, glass, &c., but of no great consequence.

'Their sawing-mills are numerous, and well constructed; this circumstance, and the great quantity of timber, mast, spars, &c., with which this country abounds, enable them to build vessels considerably under what you can afford in England, though the wages of a shipwright are now two dollars and a quarter per day. Their ships, in point of model and sailing, if not superior, are at least equal to the best European-built vessels, and when constructed of *live oak*, and *red cedar*, are equally durable. Vessels of this description are scarce. Live oak is rarely met with north of the Carolinas: that used in the Boston ship-yards is brought from Georgia; a distance of more than a thousand miles.'

Among the sports, or rather the serious occupations of the back settlers, that of hunting the grey squirrel appears to form a principal branch. Mr. P. says that the Kentucky gazette thus stated the success of a party of sportsmen in this pursuit:

"*Lexington, July 13th.*

"At a squirrel-hunt in Madison county, on the 29th and 30th ult., the hunters rendezvoused at captain Archibald Wood's, and upon counting the *scalps* * taken, it was found they amounted to 5589!"

'This sport is not confined to the back woods, but is in such general estimation as to be preferred to all other shooting. They find this game by means of a mongrel breed of dogs, trained for that purpose; the squirrel, on being pursued, immediately ascends one of

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'* By scalp is here meant skin, which is an excellent fur.'

the

the most lofty trees he can find; the dog follows, and makes a point under the tree, looking up for his game. The squirrel hides himself behind the branches, and practises a thousand manœuvres to avoid the shot; sometimes springing from one tree to another, with astonishing agility. Nature has given him a thick fur; this circumstance, and the height of the trees, make a long barrel, and large shot, indispensable in this kind of shooting. The best method of cooking the squirrel is in a ragout; this I learnt of a French epicure, who always speaks with rapture of this *bonne bouche:* it has a high game flavour, and is justly thought by the Americans to be an excellent dish; but we have many English, who, through mere prejudice, never tasted this animal; their antipathy also extends to bear, opossum, racoon, and cat-fish;—"Oh!" say the English ladies, "the *sight* of such frightful creatures is quite enough for me!"

The present situation of our country induces us to extract Mr. Priest's remarks on the formation of corps of rifl-men, because he writes from the information of those among whom this species of service is most known and most practised:*

DEAR SIR, *Philadelphia, September, 22d.* 1795.

'I find from a perusal of the English papers, that fencibles are raising in all parts of the country, and every precaution taking, to put the kingdom in the best state of defence, in case of an invasion. I have for some years thought a few regiments of riflemen would much contribute to this desirable end.

'Some lessons I have received in the use of the rifle, from back woodsmen, since my arrival in America, have confirmed me in this opinion.

'I know it will be objected, that the rifle is not a fair weapon. Perhaps it is not.—I should be sorry to see it in general use in the European armies: but surely it may be used to repel an invader, without any infringement of the Law of Nations.

'What I would recommend to Government on this subject is, first,

'OF FORMING THE CORPS.

'Beside the officers who have paid any attention to this method of fighting during the last war in America, some of the most experienced back woodsmen and Indian chiefs should be sent for from Canada.

'Independent of the regiments on the ordinary establishment, I would recommend one of *select men,* with better pay, &c., to be

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* Of their skill we have this anecdote: 'During the late war, in the year 1775, a company of riflemen, formed from the back woodsmen of Virginia, were quartered here (Lancaster, in New England) for some sime: two of them *alternately* held a board only nine inches square between his knees, while his comrade fired a ball through it from a distance of one hundred paces!' The board is still preserved; and I am assured by several who were present, that it was performed without any manner of deception.'

formed

formed from the other rifle corps; *merit* being the only recommendation.

'Volunteer companies, in different parts of the country, might soon be formed, composed of gentlemen, sportsmen, game-keepers, &c. Proper persons should make the circuit of the kingdom, to instruct them in some of the most necessary particulars; such as loading, with the proper use of the patch; to draw a level, making a just allowance for distance, &c.

'OF RIFLES.

'I would by no means recommend *contract:* let proper encouragement be given to gun-smiths, to supply rifles of the best construction, *loading from the muzzle.*—Their being of an uniform length, or bore, is of no consequence, as every man should cast and cut his own ball.

'The barrel, mounting, and lock, should be covered with a composition, to render them as dull, and as little discernible, as possible. The locks should always be in the very best firing order, and constructed to give fire as easily as the nature of the service will admit. Oil, for the inside of the rifle, should be regularly served; and the flints should be of a much better quality than those used in muskets.

'POWDER.

'Every thing depends upon this article's being of an uniform degree of strength: it should be of the best quality, but not glazed.

'ACCOUTREMENTS AND DRESS

'Cannot be better than those used by the rifle corps in this country, except perhaps that the latter should be of a dusky green, the colour died in the Highlands of Scotland for plaids: even the cap should be of this colour: a sort of helmet, constructed so as to afford a rest to fire from, when lying on the belly.

'EXERCISE, &c.

'It may perhaps be presumption in me to say any thing on this subject; but I cannot help thinking it should be the *reverse* of what is used in the Line. They should be encamped as much as possible in a woody country, as the art of *freeing*, as the back woodsmen call it, is one of their best manœuvres. Their whole time should be taken up in the *real* study of their profession, not in powdering, pipe-claying, blacking, polishing, and such military fopperies.

'The rifle out of the question, I do not think *slow, deliberate firing* sufficiently attended to in the English army. Want of ammunition first introduced it into this country at Bunker's Hill, and afterward at Sullivan's Island. The carnage that ensued was a fatal proof of its efficacy.

'I have often thought, that the success of our navy was in a great measure owing to *cool, deliberate firing*; and there is no doubt but that the military fame of our ancestors was owing to their great superiority in shooting with the long bow; for the exercise of which, butts were erected in every village in the kingdom.'

G. 2.

The reader will meet with several other amusing passages in the volume; and although the discoveries which Mr. P. has made in his tour to the United States are of no great political importance, yet they are offered to the public with the liveliness of a traveller who has been both interested and pleased by his journey, and who good-humouredly wishes to impart to others a portion of that entertainment which he himself experienced.

Man.

ART. XII. *Rural Philosophy:* or, Reflections on Knowledge, Virtue, and Happiness; chiefly in Reference to a Life of Retirement in the Country. By Ely Bates, Esq. 8vo. pp. 356. 7s. Boards. Longman & Rees ~~Johnson~~. 1803.

THIS publication, as we are informed in the preface, owes its birth to Zimmermann's Treatise on Solitude; on which work, Mr. Bates had originally intended to offer a critique: but, finding it too defective in logical analysis, he was afterward induced rather to follow the train of his own reflections, than to confine himself to the steps of the German writer. To those who are of a serious and religious turn of mind, these reflections will prove a grateful and valuable acquisition. Many observations of a similar nature, it is true, are to be found among the writings of other moralists and essayists; yet we cannot refuse to this author all claim to originality. We plainly perceive that he is a man who has both inclination and ability for the exertion of the powers of reason: but as, on the one hand, it would be difficult in a treatise of this nature to be altogether original, so, on the other, it is not easy for a writer to recollect, in many cases, whether he is indebted for a sentiment to books or to the resources of his own mind. It may be urged, indeed, that this is not of material consequence, where the remarks, like many in the present volume, are worth the repetition: since he, who applies them to his purpose judiciously, renders them his own.

The preface, which is rather long, contains observations on the *sentimental turn* of the present age, which resolves all the springs of moral conduct into *feeling;* and the author laments the general want of *rural philosophy*, or that wisdom which teaches man to improve and enjoy the leisure of retirement. The treatise itself is intended to contribute towards remedying that evil; and we wish that it may answer Mr. Bates's benevolent and pious views. It is divided into four parts. The first treats of knowlege, in three different sections: 1. Knowlege of God; 2. of the World; 3. of Ourselves.—Part II. On Virtue, in three sections: 1. How far Retirement is favourable

able to Virtue. 2. The more positive Means of Virtue. 3. Evils of Retirement, and Remedies.—Part III. On Happiness, in three sections: 1. As it arises from Retirement, Agriculture, &c. 2. Literary Retirement; 3. Devotional Retirement.—Part IV. considers objections to Retirement, in three sections: 1. Utility of Public Stations. 2. Utility of a Retired Life. 3. Utility of Monasteries. The whole concludes with remarks and inferences on *the choice of life.*

We give an extract from Mr. B.'s observations on the positive means of virtue:

'Even a mere exhibition of the world, in the mirror of faithful history, has in itself a powerful tendency to produce, among other good effects, the cure of a vain ambition, to reconcile the mind to a virtuous obscurity, and to inspire a spirit of universal candour and moderation. While we contemplate the dishonest shifts, the mean compliances, the endless mortifications and disappointments, of worldly men, in the chace of power and distinction; or note the innumerable recorded examples, on the one hand, of prosperous folly or villainy, and, on the other, of neglected or degraded merit; the mind naturally recoils with indignation, and clings with alacrity to the blessings of a humble condition. Or when we view the various sects and parties into which men are divided, in religion and politics, and observe that the best of them are not without some alloy of error or depravity, nor the worst without some laudable opinion or practice, we find relief from bigotry and faction, and learn to look on those of our own way without a blind admiration, and to regard the rest with a spirit of generous equity.'

These sentiments are just and candid, and tend to raise a very favourable opinion of the author, with respect both to understanding and heart.—In another place, his reflections on the character of a statesman so cordially meet our own, that we cannot withhold them from our readers:

'The last character I shall consider under the head of public utility, is of a higher order, its influence is far more extensive and commanding, and, according as it is well or ill employed, is productive of the greatest benefit or injury to society; I mean the character of a statesman.

'A man placed at the head of public affairs, who estimates national prosperity by the diffusion of virtuous happiness, and, agreeably to this maxim, employs every lawful measure to prevent idleness, to encourage industry, to restrain licentiousness, and to protect and cherish true liberty, is undoubtedly to be ranked among the greatest of human benefactors, has a just claim to the warmest gratitude of his fellow citizens, and to the general esteem of mankind. To such a patriot minister, the pious recluse will look up as to a tutelary angel, and attend him with emotions of veneration in all his endeavours to promote the virtue and ameliorate the state of his country.

'The statesman who proceeds upon lower principles, and who looks no farther than to the outward splendour of affairs, is entitled to no such reverence. Though he may pompously harangue in the senate, and may be ardent in his schemes to advance the wealth, and power, and renown, of his country, his soul is vulgar, and wants true moral elevation; he wants a just sense wherein the real prosperity and glory of a state consists, and of what is necessary to secure its permanence and stability. Every age has experienced, what every age is disposed to forget, and the statesman no less than any other individual, that national wealth and power, without the strong corrective of virtue, can only produce a transient glory, and are sure to terminate in national shame and ruin.'

As in other parts of the volume we behold the sound moralist, or the pious advocate for revealed religion, in this last passage we see at once those principles combining to form the enlightened patriot.

Among the different points of view, in which Mr. B. exhibits *the utility of retired life*, we find these sensible reflections:

'A retired man, with that general knowledge which so much becomes every person of leisure and fortune, and with that practical benevolence which becomes him still more, may be of various service in his vicinity. By an acquaintance with agricultural improvements he may suggest useful hints how to manage a farm to the best advantage, to a less informed and industrious neighbour; or, by a degree of medical skill, may contribute to his health. He may prevent disputes and litigation, or by his amicable interference and legal knowledge help to bring them to the speediest issue; and in many other ways, too obvious to be here enumerated, by a proper application of his fortune and influence, he may add much to the peace and comfort of those around him.'—

'A retired man of letters, if he has a son, may find much useful employment in the care of his education. He may himself assume the office of domestic tutor, and thus avoid the necessity of committing him into the hands of persons who have no natural interest in his welfare, or of exposing him to the contagion of those vices which are almost inseparable from great schools. Besides, by this domestic tuition, a considerable portion of that time, which, according to the routine of what is called a classical education, is consumed in the barren study of words, the fictions of poets, or the vanities of heathen mythology, may be employed in the cultivation of his reason, and the acquirement of much solid learning. Instead of a smattering in a dead language, of which he may never find any use, and which, to increase the difficulty of attainment, is absurdly made introductory to itself; instead of a memory charged with stories of ideal metamorphoses, and obscene adventures of gods and goddesses; a boy of common capacity may early be initiated in the rudiments of real science, may be made acquainted with many of the less obvious changes and operations of nature, with many surprising properties of light and fire, of air and water, with the elements of astronomy, of geography, of general history, and of various other parts of knowledge at once both

useful and ornamental. And, what is more important (as was observed in a former section) than a proficiency in particular branches of learning. his faculties may be prepared for any acquisitions which he may find necessary in his progress through the world, and his understanding formed to pronounce justly upon their value. Above all, the anxious affection of a parent, if he is at all qualified to sustain that character, will naturally induce him to practise every method which may inspire his son with the love of truth and virtue, and consequently with a distaste of all such tales and fictions, however set off and embellished by the power of genius, which may violate the integrity of the one, or the purity of the other.

'A learned and ingenious recluse may sometimes aid the progress of general knowledge and improvement. If he is a mathematician, though he may not be able to extend the limits of a science which seems already to have been carried beyond the bounds of utility, he may help to render some of its practical branches more attractive and accessible. If he is a botanist, he may pick up some unknown and salutary plant in his rural excursions; or, if he has a turn for chymistry, he may light upon some discovery which will be of use in agriculture or medicine, in arts or manufactures; and in other departments of science, or natural history, he may contribute something by his researches to the general benefit. As a moralist he may contribute still more: from the elevated ground of serene contemplation he may look down on mankind with an impartial eye, and take large surveys of their different pursuits; and, whilst they are busily engaged in the race of life, may admonish them of the laws which ought to regulate the course, and which, in the eagerness of competition, they are very liable to forget. He may help to place them at that ideal distance from themselves, and from the world, without which they are sure to form undue estimates of both, to magnify their own abilities and virtues, and the importance of the objects they have in view. This power of mental abstraction is a principal advantage to be sought in retirement; and to reflect this advantage back upon society, is to render it the most essential service. To do this is indeed not within the reach of every literary contemplative, and is only to be expected from one, who, after he has seen much of the world, carefully weighs and digests his observations in solitude; or who, by a narrow self-inspection, and a diligent perusal of general history, has acquired such a knowledge of himself, and of mankind, as will nearly answer the same end.'—

'A retired man may be useful to others by his example. The world wants repose; and the exhibition of a virtuous and happy retirement has a tendency to quiet its agitation. It shews that a simple mode of life is sufficient for every purpose of nature or rational enjoyment, and that there is no need to resort to the court or the city, to camps or senates, to theatres or fashionable assemblies, either for occupation or amusement. Men take too much pains to be happy; they construct for this end operose and complex engines, which are difficult to frame, and more difficult to keep in order; they imagine that some *great thing* (if I may allude to an ancient story in scripture) is necessary for the accomplishment of their object, though there is

need only to *wash and be clean;* nor is there any lesson which better deserves their study, than what is held out to them in a life of unambitious and virtuous retreat.

'In one or more of these ways may a retired man be a public blessing; and though it is possible that, after all his endeavours, the amount of his service to others may be but little, (which indeed may be the case of any man in any situation,) he may still be of the highest service to himself. In his solitary walks and meditations he may acquire and strengthen a habit of pious recollection, and cultivate an acquaintance with God, and with his own nearest concerns. Thus intent upon a better world, and little anxious about the present, (by which perhaps he is neglected or forgotten,) he will grow every day more disposed to bid it heartily farewell.'

Mr. Bates does not forget to give due weight to the representation of the service, which may be rendered to the cause of religion, by the precepts and example of the virtuous man in rural society.—We coincide with him in most of his exemplifications of the duties and the utility of a life passed in retirement; and as we apprehend that too many persons in such a situation require to be reminded of these truths, we recommend to them an attentive perusal of this well written and truly commendable volume.

ART. XIII. *The Algerine Captive;* or, the Life and Adventures of Doctor Updike Underhill, six Years a Prisoner among the Algerines. 2 Vols. 12mo. 6s. Boards. Robinsons. 1802.

AFTER having duly commemorated his honest ancestor, Captain John Underhill, this interesting writer informs us that his own birth and misfortunes, like those of other notable worthies, were prefigured to his mother in a dream; and that a number of young tawny savages, playing at foot-ball with his head, were a type of his captivity among a ferocious people.—According to the custom of New Hampshire, his native province, he was sent to a woman's school in the summer, and to a man's in the winter. In his twelfth year, he read a lesson in Dilworth's Spelling-Book, with such powers of vociferation as procured for him the distinguished notice of a stentorian clergyman, who, with some difficulty, obtained him for his pupil. Under his new master, he studied Greek and Latin during four years. 'As to the English Grammar,' he says, 'my preceptor, knowing nothing of it himself, could 'communicate nothing to me.' Many were the compliments which young Updike received on his proficiency in the *deceased* languages. 'Thus, flattered by the learned that I was in the high road to fame, I gulped down portions of Greek daily, while my preceptor made quarterly visits to my father's barnyard for pay for my instruction.'

In

In consequence of a shrewd conversation with a worthy divine of Boston, who happened to be little enamoured of Greek and Latin, the father, who was more desirous that his son should learn *useful things* than hard words, determined to make him labour on the farm:

'But, alas! a taste for Greek had quite eradicated a love for labour. Poring so intensely on Homer and Virgil had so completely filled my brain with the Heathen mythology, that I imagined a Hamadryad in every sapling, a Naïad in every puddle; and expected to hear the sobbings of the infant Fauns as I turned the furrow. I gave Greek names to all our farming tools, and cheered the cattle with hexameter verse. My father's hired men, after a tedious day's labour in the woods, inspecting our stores for refreshment, instead of the customary bread and cheese and brandy, found Homer's Iliad, Virgil Delphini, and Schrevelius's Lexicon in the basket.

'After I had worked on the farm some months, having killed a fat heifer of my father's, upon which the family depended for their winter's beef, covered it with green boughs, and laid it in the shade to putrefy, in order to raise a swarm of bees, after the manner of Virgil, which process, notwithstanding I followed closely the directions in the Georgics, somehow or other failed,—my father consented to my mother's request, that I should renew my career of learning.'

Updike therefore engaged to keep a school in a neighbouring town: but his elevation brought not with it that respect and independence which hope and vanity had so fondly pictured. His sixty boys were clamorous and petulant, the schoolhouse was burned down by their carelessness, the promised salary proved unproductive, and the humbled pedagogue gladly purchased his emancipation with the loss of his reputation and of a *Gradus ad Parnassum*.

As he next resolved to study physic, he was placed under a physician and oculist, not less celebrated for his skill than beloved for his amiable manners and his pure benevolence. A young gentleman very amiable and highly accomplished, though born stone-blind, is described as performing wonders by means of his other organs of perception:

'Upon this young man, my preceptor operated successfully. I was present during the whole process, though few were admitted. Upon the introduction of the couching instrument, and the removal of the film from the retina, he appeared confused. When the operation was completed, and he was permitted to look around him, he was violently agitated. The irritability of the ophthalmic muscles faintly expressed the perturbation of his mind. After two-and-twenty years of total darkness, to be thus awakened to a new world of sensation and light, to have such a flood of day poured on his benighted eye-balls, overwhelmed him: the infant sight was too weak for the shock, and he fainted. The doctor immediately intercepted the light with the proper bandages, and, by the application

of volatiles, he was revived. The next day the dressings were removed: he had fortified his mind, and was more calm. At first he appeared to have lost more than he had gained by being restored to vision. When blind, he could walk tolerably well in places familiar to him. From sight, he collected no ideas of distance. Green was a colour peculiarly agreeable to the new-born sight. Being led to a window, he was charmed with a tree in full verdure, and extended his arms to touch it, though at ten rods distance. To distinguish objects within reach, he would close his eyes, feel for them with his hands, and then look earnestly upon them.

'According to a preconcerted plan, the third day his bandages were removed, in the presence of his parents, brothers, sisters, friends, and of the amiable lovely girl to whom he was shortly to be married. By his request, a profound silence was to be observed, while he endeavoured to discover the person of her who was the object of his dearest affection. It was an interesting scene. The company obeyed his injunction. Not a finger moved, or a breath aspirated. The bandage was then removed; and when he had recovered from the confusion of the instant effusion of light, he passed his eye hastily over the whole group. His sensations were novel and interesting. It was a moment of importance: for aught he knew, he might find the bosom partner of his future life, the twin soul of his affection, in the fat scullion wench of his father's kitchen, or in the person of the toothless, palsied, decrepit nurse, who held the bason of gruel at his elbow.

'In passing his eye a second time over the circle, his attention was arrested by his beloved cousin. The agitations of her lovely features, and the evanescent blush on her cheek, would have at once betrayed her to a more experienced eye. He passed his eye to the next person, and immediately returned it to her. It was a moment big with expectation. Many a finger was raised to the lips of the spectators, and many a look expressive of the silence she should preserve was cast towards her. But the conflict was too violent for her delicate frame. He looked more intensely; she burst into tears, and spoke. At the well known voice he closed his eyes, rushed towards her, and clasped her in his arms. I envied them their feelings; but I thought then, and do now, that the sensations of my preceptor, the skilful, humane operator, were more enviable. The man who could restore life and usefulness to the darling of his friends, and scatter light in the paths of an amiable young pair, must have known a joy never surpassed; except, with reverence be it spoken, by the satisfaction of our benevolent Saviour, when, by his miraculous power, he opened the eyes of the actually blind, made the dumb to sing, and the lame and impotent leap for joy.'

On his introduction to the polite circles, Mr. Updike Underhill occasionally ventured to quote Greek: but the finest lines of the Iliad were received with coldness. One young lady only affected to be pleased; and to her the young Esculapius addressed an ode: but his classical compliments of *golden tresses* and *ox-eyed* were peculiarly unfortunate, 'as the young

young lady was remarkable for very prominent eyes, which resembled what, in horses, are called wall-eyes. Her hair was what is vulgarly called carroty; its unfashionable colour she endeavoured in vain to conceal by the daily use of a leaden comb.'

Disgusted with the frivolity of the young and the deceit of the antiquated ladies, the Doctor now applied himself in good earnest to the study of his profession; and, in the autumn of 1785, he mounted his horse, and sallied from the paternal mansion in quest of practice, fame, and fortune: none of which he procured. It required, however, little sagacity to discern the ignorance and jealousy of several brethren of the trade, who had obtained advantageous situations.

Hoping for more encouragement in the south;

'I carried,' says the Doctor, 'a request to the late Dr. Benjamin Franklin, then president of the state of Pennsylvania, for certain papers I was to deliver further southward. I anticipated much pleasure from the interview with this truly great man. To see one, who, from small beginnings, by the sole exertion of native genius and indefatigable industry, had raised himself to the pinnacle of politics and letters; a man who, from an humble printer's boy, had elevated himself to be the desirable companion of the great ones of the earth; who, from trundling a wheelbarrow in bye lanes, had been advanced to pass in splendour through the courts of kings; and, from hawking vile ballads, to the contracting and signing treaties, which gave peace and independence to three millions of his fellow citizens, was a sight interesting in the extreme.

'I found the doctor surrounded by company, most of whom were young people. He received me with the attention due to a young stranger. He dispatched a person for the papers I wanted; asked me politely to be seated; inquired after the family I sprang from; and told me a pleasing anecdote of my brave ancestor, captain Underhill. I found in the doctor all that simplicity of language which is remarkable in the fragment of his life, published since his decease, and which was conspicuous in my Medical Preceptor. I have since been in a room a few hours with governor Jay, of New York; have heard of the late governor Livingston, of New Jersey; and am now confirmed in the opinion I have suggested, that men of genuine merit, as they possess the essence, need not the parade of great knowledge. A rich man is often plain in his attire; and the man who has abundant treasures of learning, simple in his manners and style.

'The doctor, in early life, was economical from principle; in his latter days, perhaps from habit. Poor Richard held the purse-strings of the president of Pennsylvania. Permit me to illustrate this observation by an anecdote. Soon after I was introduced, an airy thoughtless relation, from a New England state, entered the room. It seems he was on a party of pleasure; and had been so much involved in it, for three weeks, as not to have paid his respects to his venerable

venerable relative. The purpose of his present visit was to solicit the loan of a small sum of money, to enable him to pay his bills, and transport himself home. He preluded his request with a detail of embarrassments which might have befallen the most circumspect. He said that he had loaded a vessel for B—; and, as he did not deal on credit, had purchased beyond his current cash, and could not readily procure a draft upon home. The doctor inquiring how much he wanted, he replied, with some hesitation, fifty dollars. The benevolent old gentleman went to his escritoir, and counted him out a hundred. He received them with many promises of punctual payment, and hastily took up the writing implements, to draught a note of hand for the cash. The doctor, who saw into the nature of the borrower's embarrassments better than he was aware, and was possessed with the improbability of ever recovering his cash again, stepped across the room, and laying his hand gently upon his cousin's arm, said, "Stop, cousin, we will save the paper; a quarter of a sheet is not of a great value, but it is worth saving:"—conveying, at once, a liberal gift and gentle reprimand for the borrower's prevarication and extravagance. Since I am talking of Franklin, the reader may be as unwilling to leave him as I was. Allow me to relate another anecdote. I do not recollect how the conversation was introduced, but a young person in company mentioned his surprise that the possession of great riches should ever be attended with such anxiety and solicitude; and instanced Mr. R— M—, who, he said, though in possession of unbounded wealth, yet was as busy and more anxious than the most assiduous clerk in his counting-house. The doctor took an apple from a fruit-basket, and presented it to a little child, who could just totter about the room. The child could scarce grasp it in his hand. He then gave it another, which occupied the other hand. Then choosing a third, remarkable for its size and beauty, he presented that also. The child, after many ineffectual attempts to hold the three, dropped the last on the carpet, and burst into tears. See there, said the philosopher; there is a little man with more riches than he can enjoy.'

In the course of his peregrinations, Dr. U. was witness to an extraordinary Sunday scene:

'When we arrived at the church, we found a brilliant collection of well-dressed people, anxiously waiting the arrival of the parson—who, it seems, had a small branch of the river M—— to pass; and, we afterwards learned, was detained by the absence of his negro boy, who was to ferry him over. Soon after, our impatience was relieved by the arrival of the parson in his canonicals—a young man, not of the most mortified countenance, who, with a switch called a supple jack in his hand, belaboured the back and head of the faulty slave all the way from the water to the church door, accompanying every stroke with suitable language. He entered the church, and we followed. He ascended the reading desk, and, with his face glowing with the exercise of his supple jack, began the service with, "I said I will take heed unto my ways, that I sin not with my tongue.—I will keep my tongue as it were with a bridle, when I am

before the wicked.—When I mused, the fire burned within me, and I spake with my tongue," &c. &c. 'He preached an animated discourse, of eleven minutes, upon the practical duties of religion, from these words, " Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy ;" and read the fourth commandment in the communion. The whole congregation prayed fervently that their hearts might be inclined to keep this holy law. The blessing was pronounced ; and parson and people hastened to the horse race. I found the parson as much respected on the turf as upon the hassock. He was one of the judges of the race ; descanted, in the language of the turf, upon the points of the two rival horses ; and the sleeve of his cassock was heavily laden with the principal bets. The confidence of his parishioners was not ill founded ; for they assured me, upon oath and honour, that he was a gentleman of as much uprightness as his grace the archbishop of Canterbury. Ay, they would sport him for a sermon or a song against any parson in the union.'

Failing of success also in the southern states, our adventurer now accepted a surgeon's birth in a ship bound for London, and thence to the coast of Africa. Omitting the lions in the Tower, the Doctor brings us into the company of Thomas Paine, whom he honours with three chapters.

A few additional pages transport us to that shore on which professing Christians and professing admirers of a free constitution continue to outrage the most sacred rights of our species. Here the narrative assumes a tone at once indignant and pathetic : but we purposely spare our readers the shocking recitals which close the first volume, and which are continued with little interruption in the second ; rather inviting them to contemplate the picture of the government, character, and manners of the Algerines, and the author's concise but temperate view of the Mahometan religion. The latter concludes with the following important hint :

' Upon the whole, there do not appear to be any articles in their faith which incite them to immorality, or can countenance the cruelties they commit. Neither their Alcoran nor their priests excite them to plunder, enslave, or torment. The former expressly recommends charity, justice, and mercy, towards their fellow men. I would not bring the sacred volume of our faith in any comparative view with the Alcoran of Mahomet ; but I cannot help noticing it as extraordinary, that the Mahometan should abominate the Christian on account of his faith, and the Christian detest the Mussulman for his creed ; when the Koran of the former acknowledges the divinity of the Christian Messias, and the Bible of the latter commands us to love our enemies. If either would follow the obvious dictates of his own scripture, he would cease to hate, abominate, and destroy the other.'

Dr.

Dr. U. was no sooner allowed by the Algerines to exercise his professional talents, than he enjoyed relaxation from hard labour, and respite from cruel sufferings. His fees belonged to his master: but his perquisites, as a slave, at length amounted to a considerable sum. Being aided by the purse and the ingenuity of a benevolent Jew, he was on the point of obtaining his freedom: but, at this critical moment, his benefactor died of an apoplexy, and his son not only affected ignorance of the whole proceedings, but retained the ransom-money.

The director of the hospital now proposed that our author should accompany a party of merchants on their voyage and journey to Medina and Mecca, and perform the functions of their medical attendant. On his return from this pilgrimage, he had the pleasure of rescuing from a severe illness the son of his late patron: but the young man, instead of repaying the money which he now acknowleged he possessed, secretly sold him, and artfully decoyed him on board a Tunisian vessel. A fortunate storm drove the latter on the coast of Sardinia, where she was captured by a Portuguese frigate. At length, relieved from thraldom, and treated with much kindness by the Portuguese officers, Dr. U. embarked for Bristol:

'We had a prosperous voyage to the Land's End; and, very fortunately for me, just off the little isle of Lundy, spake with a brigantine bound to Chesapeak Bay, captain John Harris commander. In thirty-two days we made Cape Charles, the north chop of the Chesapeak, and I prevailed upon the captain to set me on shore; and on the third day of May, 1795, I landed in my native country after an absence of seven years and one month; about six years of which I had been a slave. I purchased a horse, and hastened home to my parents, who received me as one risen from the dead. I shall not attempt to describe their emotions, or my own raptures. I had suffered hunger, sickness, fatigue, insult, stripes, wounds, and every other cruel injury; and was now under the roof of the kindest and tenderest of parents. I had been degraded to a slave, and was now advanced to a citizen of the freest country in the universe. I had been lost to my parents, friends, and country; and now found, in the embraces and congratulations of the former, and the rights and protections of the latter, a rich compensation for all past miseries. From some minutes I preserved, I compiled these memoirs; and, by the solicitations of some respectable friends, have been induced to submit them to the public. A long disuse of my native tongue will apologise to the learned reader for any inaccuracies.

'I now mean to unite myself to some amiable woman, to pursue my practice as a physician, which I hope will be attended with more success than when essayed with the inexperience and giddiness of youth; to contribute cheerfully to the support of our excellent government, which I have learnt to adore in schools of despotism; and thus

thus secure to myself the enviable character of an useful physician, a good father, and worthy FEDERAL citizen.

'My ardent wish is, that my fellow citizens may profit by my misfortunes. If they peruse these pages with attention, they will perceive the necessity of uniting our federal strength to enforce a due respect among other nations. Let us one and all endeavour to sustain the general government. Let no foreign emissaries inflame us against one nation, by raking up the ashes of long extinguished enmity; or delude us into the extravagant schemes of another, by recurring to fancied gratitude. Our first object is union among ourselves. For to no nation besides the United States can that ancient saying be more emphatically applied,—BY UNITING WE STAND, BY DIVIDING WE FALL.'

Such is a sketch of the principal incidents recorded in this narrative. Of the style, it may be proper to observe that it is more easy than elegant, more expressive than correct, and abounds with trans-atlantic peculiarities. If the management of the story yield in comparison with the *Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*, the reader is nevertheless carried along by a train of probable and touching events; and if he discern few traces of the exquisite humour which pervades *Gulliver's Travels*, or of the delicate and refined irony which gives zest to the *Persian Letters*, he is yet pleased with natural and lively painting, distinctly figures each passing scene, and smiles or sighs as he contemplates the folly or wickedness of human kind.

As the privation of a blessing most forcibly teaches us its importance, the writer of this performance has wisely exhibited the miseries of captivity, in order that his countrymen may perceive and feel the value of that independence for which they fought and conquered. An able and warm advocate of civil and religious freedom, he nobly reprobates the narrow distracted views of European policy, and feelingly deplores the systematic oppression of the ignorant and unoffending African. The display of such generous sentiments may be allowed to atone for partial failures in the execution of his plan. As friends rather than as critics, we shall only beg leave to observe, that the contents of the first volume are more diversified and more amusing than those of the second; that the moral picture of London is darkened with shading not its own; and that, in the dialogue with the Mollah, the author too feebly defends that religion which he professes to revere.

Muir...d.

MONTHLY CATALOGUE,

For SEPTEMBER, 1803.

MEDICAL, &c.

Art. 14. *Five Common-Sense Arguments*, to evince the Efficacy and enforce the Duty of Inoculation by the Small-Pox; and to obviate existing Prejudices and Objections. Most respectfully dedicated to the Board of Directors and the Medical Council of the Royal Jennerian Society. By Joseph Simmons. 12mo. 1s. Highley. 1803.

We were much surprized that a publication should come forwards, at this time, to recommend inoculation for the small-pox; and more particularly that it should be inscribed to a body of men who have united their exertions to eradicate that disease. We soon found, however, that the author is a champion for vaccine inoculation; and that by singular inattention, the word *small* has been inserted in the title page for *Cow* pox.

The five arguments, or rather heads, under which the author's recommendatory observations are contained, are the following:

'1. The parliamentary sanction which Vaccination has received:'—

'2. The high respectability and undoubted disinterestedness of the persons by whom the practice is recommended to general adoption:'—

'3. The truly important nature of the objects to be effected by it:'—

'4. The certainty of its suitableness to attain those objects; and the futility of the objections raised against it:'—

'5. And lastly, as a consequent deduction from the whole, the duty of compliance with it.'

The illustration of each of these heads is sufficiently obvious, and therefore needs not be stated. Yell.

Art. 15. *An Address to Parents and Guardians of Children and others*, on Variolous and Vaccine Inoculations. By John Coakley Lettsom, M.D. &c. 8vo. 6d. Mawman. 1803.

This is a popular persuasion to Vaccine Inoculation, which has long been before the public in different shapes. It may be regarded as a proof of the zeal and philanthropy of the author.

Another pamphlet on this subject, but of a controversial nature, as relating to various critical opinions on Dr. L.'s productions, has lately appeared: but we must decline to take any specific notice of it, since we observe nothing in it that calls for our attention. Do

Art. 16. *A Series of Engravings, explaining the Course of the Nerves.* By Charles Bell, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. 4to. 1l. 1s. Boards. Longman and Co. 1803.

These engravings are in the author's usual style of correctness and elegance; and they may therefore be regarded as a valuable acquisition

tion to the medical library. We must observe, however, that several errors occur in the explanations, which we may presume to be sanctioned by the author, because there is no table of errata. We may give, as examples opthalmic for ophthalmic, corda for chorda, acaustic for acoustic, tibiei for tibiæ, &c. Yell.

Art. 17. *Cases of the Successful Practice of Vesicæ Lotura, for the Cure of diseased Bladders.* Part I. 2d Edition. 8vo. 1s. 6d. Becket.

Art. 18. *Cases of the Successful Practice of Vesicæ Lotura for the Cure of diseased Bladders*, with a Plate of the Apparatus. Also, Cases of diseased Affections from Phymosis, with a Description of a New Mode of Operating for its Cure, and a Plate of the Instrument for performing it. Part II. By Jessé Foot, Esq. 8vo. 3s. Becket. 1803.

In the first edition of the first part of these cases, which was noticed by us some time ago *, the author brought forwards one example from Le Dran, and four from his own practice, to prove the successful employment of the Vesicæ Lotura. To these, which are now reprinted, he adds in the second part thirteen instances in confirmation of the good effects resulting from that mode of treatment, in certain diseases of the bladder. In many cases which fell under his own observation, he was disposed to consider the urinary affection as brought on, or maintained, by a natural phymosis; and in such cases, of which four are detailed, he thinks that the symptoms are only to be removed by an operation. The cure of phymosis has generally been effected by a complete division of the prepuce up to or beyond the glans: but the author conceives this to be perfectly unnecessary, and therefore recommends the operation to be thus performed:

'About the sixth of an inch of the outer cutis, is to be divided from within outward; so that the point of the knife shall be seen passing out, and dividing about one sixth of an inch of the outer cutis: and this is all of the outer cutis that needs to be divided. This will naturally enable as much of the cutis as is divided, to be slid back; when only the duplicature will present itself; as much as does present itself must be divided in the same manner. This will allow fresh undivided duplicature to present itself, which is also to be divided after the same manner; and so on, till the whole is thus divided, and till the whole can be slid back behind the glans penis, leaving it completely denudated.

'The treatment of the part is to be according to the principles of common surgery.'

A plate accompanies the second part, in which the apparatus for injecting the bladder, and a small knife, with a bill-hook, such as is to be used in the operation of phymosis above described, are delineated. Do

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* See M. R. vol. xxvi. N. S. p. 338.

LAW.

Art. 19. *The Rules of Evidence on Pleas of the Crown*; illustrated from printed and MS. Cases. By Leonard MacNally, Esq. Barrister at Law. 2 Vols. 8vo. 1l. 1s. bound. Butterworth. 1803.

We are equally convinced with the author of these volumes, that great importance attaches to rules of evidence, and that it is essential to the prosperity of the state that they should be accurately defined and scrupulously observed. As the late Lord Kenyon declared, "Our lives, our Liberty and our property, are concerned in the support of them;" and, impressed with these ideas, we consider a work, which fully and ably discusses a subject of such consequence, as a desideratum to the Profession. We are aware of different publications which have incidentally, and others which have avowedly, undertaken the investigation of this most important topic of our law: but, if something has been accomplished, much has been left to be effected by the industry of future writers.

Mr. Mac Nally has availed himself largely of the labours of his predecessors, and has also introduced many instances of his own professional experience; referring us to several trials in Ireland for a confirmation of rules, which have never for the last century been questioned in England. In the chapter on the Comparison of Hand-writings, the case of *Cary* against *Pitt*, reported by Mr. Peake, is omitted; in which Lord Kenyon declared the evidence of an inspector of franks at the Post-Office to be inadmissible, who was called to prove that he had frequently seen franks pass the Office in the defendant's name; and that, from the character in which these franks were usually written, he believed the acceptance on a bill of exchange to be the defendant's hand-writing, though he had never seen the defendant write, nor had ever received any letters from him.—In the subsequent case of *Rex* v. *Cator*, in which the defendant was indicted for an anonymous libel, two persons in the Post-Office were admitted to prove that the libels produced were not written in a natural but in a disguised hand: though such testimony had been rejected by Lord Kenyon in the former case: who observed "that, though such evidence was received in *Revett* v. *Braham*, he had in his charge to the jury laid no stress upon it." When, however, these clerks of the Post-Office were asked whether they could say that the libels were of the same hand-writing with certain letters of the defendant then produced, the counsel for the defendant objected; and Mr. Baron Hotham, who tried the cause, determined that the question was improper. This particular point is also unnoticed by our author; who, from the omission of these later authorities, has not stated the law with that distinctness and certainty which he might easily have obtained. Indeed, though this production may in some cases be consulted with advantage, we think that it betrays too many marks of haste, and too many instances of inaccuracy, to deserve implicit confidence. S.R.

Art. 20. *The Solicitor's Practice on the Crown-Side of the Court of King's Bench.* With an Appendix containing the Forms of the Pro-

Proceedings, &c. By William Hands, Solicitor. 8vo. pp. 530. 10s. 6d. Boards. Butterworth. 1803.

About eighty pages of this large work are given to the consideration of the practice on the Crown-side of the Court of King's Bench; and the remainder is occupied with precedents, which may be found in many other productions. Mr. Hands, in his preface, intimates an opinion that at a future time this compilation may appear in a more perfect and comprehensive form. All that is necessary for so desirable a purpose may be obtained by diligence and attention; and when we see these qualities exerted by the author, we shall readily bestow that praise which, on the present occasion, we are compelled to withhold. S.R.

Art. 21. *A brief View of the Consequences of Imprisonment for Debt*, to the different Relations of Creditor and Debtor, and to Society; with Observations on a Mode of Amelioration. Addressed to the Right Honourable Henry Addington. By a Prisoner. 4to. pp. 32. Bell. 1803.

This is a very hasty and declamatory performance, from which no instruction can be collected, because the writer is in many instances completely unintelligible. Do

Art. 22. *Reports of Cases argued and determined in the Court of King's Bench;* with Tables of the Names of Cases and principal Matters. By Edward Hyde East, Esq. of the Inner Temple, Barrister at Law. Vol. II. Containing the Cases in the 42d Year of George III. 1801—1802. Royal 8vo. pp. 620. 1l. 2s. 6d. Boards. Butterworth. 1802.

In our 37th vol. N. S. will be found an account of the first volume of these Reports; and the present is a continuation precisely on the same plan. It contains several important cases; and, among the rest, that of *Haycraft* against *Creasy*, which came before the Court in consequence of the celebrated Miss Robertson's impositions. In this curious cause, three judges determined, contrary to the opinion of Lord Kenyon, that the strongest representation that a particular person was intitled to credit is not the ground of an action, if made *bonâ fide*, though the plaintiff be injured in consequence of the party *not* having been intitled to credit; the foundation of such an action being fraud and deceit in the defendant, as well as damage to the plaintiff.

Mr. East has published the first number of his third volume. Do

Art. 23. *A Treatise of Testaments and last Wills;* compiled out of the Laws Ecclesiastical, Civil, and Canon; as also out of the Common Laws, Customs, and Statutes of this Realm. By Henry Swinburne, some time Judge of the Prerogative Court of York. The Seventh Edition. With the valuable Annotations, illustrative of the Subject to the present Time, of the late John Joseph Powell, Esq. Barrister at Law, Author of the Law of Mortgages, &c. Prepared for the Press by James Wake, Esq. Barrister at Law. 3 Vols. 8vo. Clarke and Sons. 1803.

This work first made its appearance in 4to, in the year 1590, and the sixth edition was published in the year 1743, some time before

we commenced that literary career in which we have now been engaged for more than half a century. As it is a production of considerable value, and is frequently cited in our different courts as a book of authority, we trust that we shall be excused by our readers for now giving a short character of it, at this distance of time. The learning and ability of Dr. Swinburne, however, are too well known, and his reputation as a writer is too well established, to require any detailed account of his treatise. It contains information on a great variety of topics, and indicates a mind shrewd and discriminating, although not wholly untinctured with pedantry. The work is, moreover, diffuse and redundant, and is interspersed with a number of trifling and foolish stories, which bespeak the author to have been strangely credulous, and which serve only to increase the size while they diminish the real value of the book. The present edition is, with all the superfluities of the original writer, preferable to the last; which, as Mr. Wake justly intimates in his advertisement, was greatly mutilated, and its meaning frequently perverted. At the same time, we are of opinion that the book, restored as it is, will be convenient only as a work of reference, its obsolete and prolix style rendering it unfit for general perusal.

With regard to the notes of the late Mr. Powell, which are written in the same manner as his professed treatises, they form an useful addition to this learned writer. It appears, however, evident that the annotations were left imperfect at his death; the editor having deemed it expedient to make large and copious extracts from Mr. Toller's volume of the Law of Executors *, without the smallest acknowlegement of the assistance thence derived. The note from p. 651 to p. 654. and the note p. 659. *cum plurimis aliis*, are literally transcribed from the *Law of Executors*, without any reference. Such a practice demands animadversion. S.R.

Art. 24. *A Treatise on the Functions and Duties of a Constable;* containing Details and Observations interesting to the Public, as they relate to the Corruption of Morals, and the Protection of the peaceful Subject against Penal and Criminal Offences. By P. Colquhoun, Esq. LL.D. a Magistrate acting for the Counties of Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, and Essex, for the City and Liberty of Westminster, and for the Liberty of the Tower of London. 8vo. pp. 90. Mawman. 1803.

The office of constable is of very great antiquity, for the statute of Winchester, which passed in the 13th year of Edward I. (A.D. 1285), notices these officers, and directs the number to be chosen in each hundred. The trust reposed in them is considerable, embraces a great variety of objects, and its proper discharge is intimately connected with the best interests of society; so that it is of the utmost importance, as Mr. C. observes, that able, prudent, and intelligent individuals should be selected for the purpose.—Much useful knowlege is contained in this pamphlet, which may be considered as a supplement to this gentleman's other productions on the subject of police. S.R.

* See M. R. vol. xxxii. N. S. p. 155.

Art.

Art. 25. *A Narrative and authentic Report of the Proceedings at the Election for Knights of the Shire for the County of Norfolk*, from its Commencement, July 12th, to the Close of the Scrutiny on the 28th August, 1802. 8vo. pp. 100. 2s. Butterworth.

This publication records several curious particulars relative to the contested election for the county of Norfolk, some of which are interesting to the general reader, as well as to the parties concerned in the dispute. S.R.

Art. 26. *Term Reports in the Court of King's Bench*, from Michaelmas Term 35th George III. 1794, to Trinity Term 40th George III. 1800, both inclusive. By Charles Durnford and Edward Hyde East, Esqrs. Barristers at Law. A new Edition, corrected, with additional References. Royal 8vo. Vols. VI. VII. & VIII. 19s. each, Boards. Butterworth. 1802.

We noticed the appearance of the fifth volume of these Reports in their present commodious size in our 33d volume, N. S., and have now only to inform our readers that the whole series of the Term Reports from Michaelmas Term 1785, to the end of Trinity Term 1800, is included in eight octavo volumes. S.R.

POETIC.

Art. 27. *Beneficence:* or, Verses addressed to the Patrons of the Society for bettering the Condition and increasing the Comforts of the Poor. By Thomas Alston Warren, B.D. 4to. 2s. 6d. Hatchard.

We might be said to return *Maleficence* for Beneficence, were we to intimate that, for the well-intentioned poem before us, the author 'deserved to be tortured on the wheel or exposed on the gibbet of criticism;' yet we may be allowed, on this as on other occasions, to lament that genius does not always smile on virtue; and that truth restrains us from commendation when it would be gratifying to bestow it. Poetry is a species of composition which is never tolerated by good judges unless it rises above mediocrity. "*Orationi et carmini est parva gratia*, as the Younger Pliny observes, *nisi eloquentia est summa.*" How often must we repeat that it is not lines consisting of a certain number of syllables, rhyming in couplets or in alternate stanzas, which constitutes a poem: but that it requires brilliancy of thought, elegance of diction, and a beauty of finishing like that which an artist would give to a cabinet picture.

The Muse has frequently delighted in depicting the pleasures of humble rural life. Mr. Warren describes the happiness of the cottager in these stanzas:

'Happy the Cottager, whose field,
As much you urge, a Cow contains;
Her balmy stores shall plenty yield,
And Profit smiling count her gains.

'Happy, if his the haulm rick dry,
The vine which annual yields repast,
The wood pile neatly built, and high,
The orchard shelter'd from the blast.

'Whilst to his casement climbs the rose,
Grac'd with the jasmine's starry vest;
His roof the tufted house-leek shews,
His door, the martin's hallow'd nest.

'In yonder shed his pig reclines,
His bees work *singing* 'neath that bow'r;
And his small garden's well-wrought mines
Yield the rich herb, the fruit and flow'r.

'Thus many a blessing home bestows,
Whilst what he wants or wishes more
Is cheaply purchas'd there, where shows
The village-shop its useful store.

'Thither at stated time he hies,
And smiles o'er all his bargain'd ware,
To think, that in his glad surprize
A grateful family shall share.

'Nor small advantage he receives
From the parochial windmill's clack;
No toll is sought, no fraud deceives,
But fair and full returns the sack.

'Taught kindly now, the Housewife knows
Her arts with surer skill to ply,
Her narrow'd chimney warmer glows,
Her soup is rich, her rice swells high.'

To the accuracy of this delineation we cannot object, unless we should observe that *humming* is more appropriate to bees than *singing*; and that *herbs*, *fruits*, and *flowers*, are not the produce of *mines*: but, how many such verses might a modern Lucilius spin in a day?

Art. 28. *Carminum Rariorum Macaronicorum Delectus. Fasciculus Secundus.* 8vo. Pamphlet. Edinburgh. 1802.

We expressed some apprehension, in our review of the former number of this collection, (see Vol. xxxix. N.S. p. 329.) that from the nature of its contents it might be coldly received by the public, especially on this side of the Tweed. The number before us contains more various matter, and is not limited to Macaronic poetry, strictly so called. It includes a translation of Ramsay's *Monk and the Miller's Wife*, into Latin rhyme; a Latin version of the *Song on the Battle of Gillicranky;* and a re-publication of *the Wife of Auchtermuchty*, of which the editor recommends a Latin translation, to preserve its 'beauties.' These beauties, however, such as they are, have been made sufficiently accessible to the English reader, by the version of the facetious Tom Brown.—We next meet with an English Hudibrastic poem on the studies of *John Brosy;* a local satire, which general readers cannot be supposed to relish.—An epitaph on a late professor in Edinburgh (Dr. Young) has not, we believe, been previously published:

'EPITAPH

'EPITAPH ON A CELEBRATED PROFESSOR OF MIDWIFERY, who, after having faithfully discharged the most important duties of a Married Man for near half a century, died childless.

MEMORIÆ
X Y.
In Academia Edinburgena
Artis obstetricæ quondam Professoris,
Qui
Lucinam sine Venere,
Venerem sine Lucina,
Coluit:
Filios post mille
Reipublicæ datos,
Eheu!
Sine Liberis decessit.
Bella inter intestina
Manu forti,
Sed sine Marte,
Liberatoris
Nomen adeptus est.
Respicite Matres,
Prospicite Virgines,
et lugete!'

Other epitaphs follow, some jocular and others serious: the following is elegant, but certainly not *Macaronic.*

'EPITAPH ON DAVID DOEG, LL D. Written by himself, and engraved on a Monument erected to his Memory after his death, in the Churchyard of Stirling, at the public expence.

Fui
DAVID DOEG,
Scholæ Latinæ apud Sterlinenses,
Per XL annos Præpositus.

Edidici quædam, perlegi plura, notavi
Paucula; cum Domino mox peritura suo.
Lubrica Pieriæ captabam præmia palmæ,
Credulus, ingenio heu nimis alta meo!
Extincto, famam ruituro crescere saxo,
Posse putem? vivo, quæ mihi nullo fuit.
Non omnis moriar; ridebit munus inane
Carminis ac tumuli, spiritus alta petens.'

The number concludes with a parody on Phillips's Translation of Sappho's Ode, said to be written by an eminent Barrister; and published, as we well remember, upwards of twenty years ago, in one of the Magazines.

It would be a task deserving great encouragement to attempt the recovery of those practical *jeux d'esprit* which the long and successful cultivation of literature in Scotland must have produced. How many epigrams and ballads may have been locked up in port-folios, from the dread of political animosities which are now happily done

away! We beg leave to suggest these hints to the consideration of the present ingenious editor. Fer.

Art. 29. *John and Dame;* or the Loyal Cottagers. By Mr. Pratt. 12mo, 4d. 8vo. or 1s. 6d. R. Phillips.

The sentiments of the Loyal Cottagers, and of their poetic historian, are worthy of cordial praise: but we cannot compliment our old acquaintance on the success which has here attended his visit to the Olympian Mount. Many of his lines are deficient even in the common observance of grammar. G.2

POLITICS.

Art. 30. *Reflections on the present Crisis of Public Affairs.* By Charles Tweedie, F.A.S. 8vo. 2s. 6d. Stockdale.

——— ——— "What we would highly,
That would we holily."

Being not less alive to the preservation of our national Honour than to that of our national Independence, we must be as solicitous to refute the calumny of our enemy as to defeat all his attempts to subdue us. Several writers have already drawn the pen in this warfare, to which list we are now to add the name of Mr. Tweedie; who not only undertakes to exculpate Great Britain from the charge of perfidy for retaining Malta, but to shew that it is a measure as much approved by Policy as demanded by Justice. He contends that the Order of St. John of Jerusalem could not possibly be placed in that state of Independence, which the articles of the Treaty of Amiens required; and that to surrender it to the miserable remains of the Order, with its property diminished by confiscation since the signature of the Treaty, would be in effect to surrender it to France, against which event it was the evident object of every stipulation to guard. The avowed purposes of France respecting Egypt, and the East, are urged as farther sufficient reasons for our refusing to surrender Malta: but we must excuse ourselves from detailing these arguments, because, though they be judicious, they are not new. Mr. T. denies that Malta is the cause of the war, and regards it only as the point at which we made a stand against a series of insults, and resolved on asserting our national dignity. By Bonaparte's public declaration that "England alone cannot maintain a struggle against France," menace was substituted for negociation, and concession on our part could only have been regarded as cowardice. At the question of Malta, the enemy would not have stopped: but demand would have followed demand, till at last, perhaps, he would have required that all our men of war should have been given up to him as the price of the continuance of peace. To such a peace, however, who would not prefer war? It is better to meet the foe, and even to perish in the conflict, than to live by his sufferance, enchained and insulted. To all threats, the British Nation can make but one reply. It wishes to cultivate peace and to fulfil its engagements with surrounding states: but it will never brook the idea of being driven to any measure by an hostile bayonet.

Convinced

Convinced that the war is unavoidable and just, Mr. T. recommends the prosecution of it with vigour. He would not wait for the attack, but would prevent it, and turn the assailant into the defender. He thinks that, in the present state of Europe, war is to be preferred to peace; in as much as, with the stupendous power which France now possesses, a treaty cannot be concluded with safety and advantage. In short, it is his decided opinion that the only thing which can save us is—War! *Non ego* (says he, in the words of Cicero) *pacem nolo, sed, pacis nomine,* BELLUM INVOLUTUM *reformido.* That the bloody recipé of war may be cheerfully adopted, he prophetically assures us that it will lead to 'the foundation of a new epoch in the history of Europe.' "Proceed, bright days!" Mo-y.

Art. 31. *Thoughts on the Invasion threatened by Bonaparte:* With Notes illustrative of many unknown Crimes committed by the different Members of the Consular Government. Translated from the French of E. M., One of the Chiefs of the Royalist Party in the South of France. 8vo. 2s. Longman and Co.

This pamphlet professes to come from the pen of a young Frenchman, who represents himself as 'having scarcely commenced his career of life,' and yet as having been the royalist chief in the South of France. In one respect it bears the stamp of youth; since vehemence unchastised by discretion is its prominent character. The author is what Dr. Johnson would call "a very good hater:" his indignation against Bonaparte boils over in almost every period; and, that he might not be suspected of any ill judged lenity, he charges him with every description of vice. So much is he in a rage against the French regicides, that he almost forgets the title of his pamphlet, and is more occupied with enforcing the idea that 'the entire destruction of the French Government is as important as the fall of those men who now hold the reins,' than with our threatened danger. From such an intemperate writer, the British nation wants no advice. John Bull, in case of Invasion, must depend on his own good sense and courage. Dº

Art. 32. *The Danger of Invasion, and the Means of Defence, fairly estimated;* with a few Remarks submitted to the Consideration of Government and of the Public. By a Military Officer. 8vo. 2s. 6d. Hatchard.

Unlike the foregoing most passionate declamation, the pamphlet now before us is temperate, rational, and directed to the point in view, viz. 'to quiet the minds of the people, as well as to rouse them to a sense of the real danger.' When in 1719 a rumour of Invasion prevailed, the Great Duke of Marlborough gave it, in council, as his decided opinion that the attempt was so hazardous that he questioned whether it would be made, and that, if made, it could be easily defeated. In subsequent periods of alarm from the same quarter, similar reports have been presented to government by military men of great knowlege and experience. Yet, under the peculiar circumstances of France, it would be absurd in us to depend too much on the extreme difficulties or hazards which must attend such an enterprise. As this writer advises, regard must be had

not only to plans of *probable* but to plans of *possible* execution, and provision must be made against both. It is his opinion 'that the enemy, setting all difficulties at defiance, will attempt his favourite object, if there be the least remissness or relaxation in our preparations to receive him:' but we are resolved to give him no hope from this quarter. The nation is roused; and with 'a population of fifteen millions, with such resources in ability, public spirit, national wealth, and local circumstances, it seems fitted to defy not only France, but the world in arms.' We cannot detail the professional hints presented by this writer, relative to arming, drilling, and general tactics: but they appear to us to be judicious. We contemplate with satisfaction the alacrity of our warriors, both as it does honour to the spirit of the country, and as it diminishes the chances of Invasion.

Moy.

Art. 33. *An Appeal from the Passions to the Sense of the Country, upon Buonaparté and Invasion.* 8vo. 6d. Stockdale.

After having offered the most enthusiastic praise to the abilities and merits of Mr. Pitt, this writer proceeds to his professed subject. Though confident of repelling the enemy, he does not wish to see him land, and thinks that every exertion should be made to prevent it. He is a strenuous advocate for a regular military force, in preference to the measure of arming the people; as, on Dr. Smith's principle of the division of labour, it is best for a state that soldiers should be soldiers,—weavers, weavers,—and farmers, farmers.

Do

Art. 34. *A Candid Appeal to Public Confidence;* or, Considerations on the actual and imaginary Dangers of the present Crisis. By T. M. Moore, Esq. 8vo. 1s. Stockdale.

One sentence will display Mr. Moore's opinion. 'The difficulties which are inseparable from the execution of any plan of Invasion, and those with which the enemy must be surrounded, should their attempt succeed in the first instance, are so great and so manifold, that, as long as we exhibit the formidable aspect of an armed nation, we may be justified in considering them as insuperable.' From a comparison of the resources of France with those of Great Britain, and from a consideration of the British character, arguments are drawn in support of public confidence; yet, while Mr. M. protests against despondency, he cautions his countrymen against being supine.

Do

Art. 35. *What have we to fight for?* An Address to the Freeholders of Middlesex, who met at the Crown and Anchor Tavern on July 29, 1803, to celebrate the last Election of Members of Parliament for that County, On their Duty as Britons, at the present important Crisis. 8vo. 1s. 6d. Hatchard.

The motto, "*Awake! Arise! or be for ever fall'n!*" manifests that the tendency of this pamphlet is equally patriotic with those which we have just noticed. The object of the writer is to reply to the *singular* speech of Sir F. Burdett, which excited such general disapprobation. In answer to the question *What have we to fight for?* it is replied, 'We have to fight for the preservation of a great Commu-

nity, which exhibits a finer spectacle of intellectual and moral worth, than has ever been exhibited from the first "syllable of recorded time." For the preservation of such an object, Britons will no doubt *'quit themselves like men.* Indeed, this writer expands his views beyond the boundaries of mere local and patriotic attachment. He considers this country as the last retreat of the Liberty of Europe, and as the citadel of the civilization and order of all nations. Thus are we represented as fighting not only for ourselves but for the world, in as much as the Independence of Nations is bound up in the issue of this great quarrel. Are surrounding states, then, so infatuated, that they look on as calm spectators, and do not unite with us in a cause which is as much theirs as our own? Mo-y.

Art. 36. *A Letter to a Roman Catholic Gentleman of Ireland*, on the Chief Consul Bonaparte's projected Invasion. By Charles Butler, Esq. 8vo. 3d. White.

Mr. Butler (the well-known and respectable conveyancer, of Lincoln's Inn) offers it as his own opinion that, after all the vauntings and threats of Bonaparte, he must make the attempt to invade us; being impelled to this measure by his feelings, his interest, and the circumstances of the times. He then represents the miserably subversive consequences which would result from his success, and urges this fair statement as a strong reason for vigour and united resistance against the invading enemy. He reminds the Catholics of Ireland of the obligations which they owe to his present Majesty, and bids them reflect on the loss which they must sustain by exchanging his government for that of Consular France. Do

Art. 37. *An Appeal to the public Spirit of Great Britain.* By Charles Marsh, Esq., Lincoln's Inn. 8vo. 3s. Cadell and Davies.

In this as in many other pamphlets of the same nature and the same laudable tendency, which are now issuing in legions from the press, the public are invited to consider well the species of enmity which we are to encounter, to estimate its peculiar character and dangers, and to disdain that creeping sentiment which calculates privations and personal sacrifices, when a gigantic evil threatens to overwhelm the whole community. Mr. Marsh labours to rouse the *amor patriæ* of his countrymen, and their indignation against the foe, to the highest pitch; and if his ardent zeal degenerates at times into verbose declamation, it is a fault which criticism cannot, on the present occasion, presume to censure with rigour. The general apology of every political writer must now be, *Quis teneat se?* Do

Art. 38. *The grand Contest deliberately considered;* or a View of the Causes and probable Consequences of the threatened Invasion of Great Britain. With a Sketch of the Life and Actions of the First Consul; particularly since the Peace of 1802. Addressed to Britons. By Francis Blagdon, Esq. To which are subjoined, Notes Historical and Explanatory, and a British War-song, set to Music, for the Piano-Forté, by the Author. 8vo. 1s. Vernor and Hood.

Mr.

Mr. Blagdon honestly confesses his opinion to be that some kind of licence is allowable to the political champion. 'A writer (says he) who takes up his pen in defence of his *God* *, his Country, and his King, may boldly exert himself according to his fancy, without adhering to pedantic rules.' We admit this privilege to a certain extent: but, if 'the exercise of the quill must keep pace with that of the firelock,' in the present contest, writers as well as soldiers should have a pride in displaying correct discipline; they should fire with precision, and be sure that *every shot tells.* Though we applaud Mr. B.'s spirit, and the tendency of his pamphlet, he would have been improved as a political writer, if he had taken a lesson or two from drill-serjeant *Discretion.* We agree with him in his representations of the momentous nature of the contest, and commend his ardour against Bonaparte as the inveterate enemy of this country: but we cannot approve of his recommending assassination, or that 'a large reward be offered for the Consul's head to any individual who may have resolution enough to kill him.' Let the war of Britons be lawful in its means as well as just in its object. If the sword, which, as Mr. B. observes, must be the arbiter of the dispute, is to be drenched deep in the blood of our enemies, before peace can return to us, let it be so wielded that it may be crowned with honour. Let us prepare to perish rather than survive with ignominy: but let us fight and die like Britons. He who fights for God should not turn assassin.

Moy.

Art. 39. *Invasion defeated.* By the Author of "The State of Things for 1803." 12mo. 3d. Hatchard.

Short but pithy. The author represents the danger of Invasion as *certain, great,* and *near;* calls on us to oppose it by means, *great, prompt,* and *united;* and encourages us with the hope that, if we patriotically exert ourselves, we shall, under God, effectuate our own deliverance, and establish the Liberties of Mankind.

Do

Art. 40. *A Plan for the safe Removal of Inhabitants, not Military,* from Towns and Villages on the Coasts of Great Britain and Ireland, in the Case of the threatened Invasion: With Reflections calculated to hasten Preparations for that Measure. By J. Lettice, D D. 8vo. 1s. 6d. Clarke.

To be prepared at all points and in all respects for the threatened Invasion is sound policy, and every hint serving to this end ought to be gratefully received. The attention of Dr. Lettice has been directed to a very necessary measure, in case of an actual landing of the enemy on our coasts, and his suggestions merit the consideration of the maritime parishes: but it appears to us that he should not only have adverted to the removal of inhabitants and their most valuable and necessary effects, but should also have recommended that

* There is a degree of impiety in declaring ourselves the Defenders of *God.* A creature may be engaged in defending the *cause* of God, which every one does who aids the cause of religion and virtue: but God himself cannot be defended by us.

some

some provision should be made in each house in the inland parishes, for the reception and accommodation of the fugitives; since the contest with the enemy may be more protracted than he supposes. The great difficulty would be to prevail on whole towns to leave their property behind them, and to fly with only 'a few wooden spoons and trenchers.'—It may be adviseable to make the country around the enemy a wilderness: but this must be effected by the military under the order of government. Great confusion must await the flight of terrified multitudes, which scarcely any plan can entirely prevent; yet, if it can be obviated in some measure, so far good will be gained. Mo-y.

Art. 41. *The Loss of Power, Commerce, and Liberty;* or the Three sure Consequences of a successful Invasion. 12mo. 3d. Hatchard.

It is the opinion of this writer (and an opinion perhaps not destitute of truth), that we have fallen into a political error, in directing an almost exclusive attention to the *personal* character of the First Consul of France; when we ought chiefly to have considered that the result of success on the part of the enemy must equally be the loss of all that is valuable to us, whatever may be the government of France, or whoever may administer it. Without loading Bonaparte with any foul and unqualified personal abuse, which is rather an indication of weakness than of true magnanimity, the author developes the nature of the Consul's enmity, and its sure consequences (if not resisted and defeated), in a manner that is sufficient to excite every spark of patriotism against him. Whether Bonaparte be regarded by his vassals as "a spirit of health or goblin damn'd," is to us a matter of inferior moment. In the character of an Invader of our shores, he must be odious; and, unless successfully resisted, he will overwhelm them with curses. These are sufficient reasons for our present exertions. Do

Art. 42. *An Address to the People of Ireland* who are unfriendly to the British Government. By G. Clark. 8vo. 3d. Ginger.

The object of this address is to induce the Irish to be contented, by endeavouring to convince them that they must be great losers if severed from Great Britain and placed under the power of France. There is more truth in the author's arguments designed to prove this statement, than in his assertion that Bonaparte exacted from the small territory of Milan *six hundred millions sterling!!* This is more than the whole national debt of England; and a sum not to be collected by the pillage of one half of Europe. Do

Art 43. *An Address to the Richmond Volunteers*, assembled in the Parish Church of Richmond, in Surrey, August 29, and Sept. 2, 1803, to take the Oath of Allegiance. By Thomas Wakefield, B. A. Minister of Richmond. 8vo. 6d. Hurst.

That oaths are often administered with little solemnity, and taken with much levity and thoughtlessness, is a truth which must afflict the Christian and the Patriot with the deepest concern. Mr. Wakefield has laudably exerted himself to prevent this evil. He explains to the Richmond Volunteers the awful nature of an oath, exposes the

sin

sin of profane swearing, and exhorts them with religious seriousness to espouse the cause of their King and Country. Moy.

Art. 44. *Footsteps of Blood;* or the March of the Republicans: being a Display of the horrid Cruelties and unexampled Enormities committed by the French Republican Armies in all Parts of the World, &c. &c. 8vo. 1od. Hatchard.

TORRENTS *of Blood* might have been the title chosen by the compiler of this pamphlet; which exhibits such a detail of enormities, ascribed to the French on the authority of various writers (here quoted), as must sicken the heart of man, and make him sigh over the depravity of human nature. If there exists an Englishman who would welcome, or even would be slow in opposing, the visits of French Invaders, let him contemplate this picture, and view the horrid precipice on which he stands. G.2.

Art. 45. *Letter to the Right Hon. Lord Pelham,* on the State of Mendicity in the Metropolis. By Matthew Martin, Esq. 8vo. 1s. 6d. Hatchard.

We are pleased to find that this subject has engaged the attention of Government. Mendicity classes among the opprobria of civilized states; and it is an indication of defect in the body politic, which generates a train of vices. Poverty cannot be altogether banished, since equality of property is impossible; yet poverty and beggary are not necessarily co-existent. There is a duty owing to the poor, and if that duty be performed it will restrain and secure them from becoming mendicants. 'The poor are, collectively, the wards of the state,' towards whom a considerable degree of vigilance ought to be extended. Our system of Poor-management is, at present, so very defective, and the intention of the 43d of Elizabeth, which provides *only* for the *aged* and *impotent* poor, is so completely overlooked, that the attention of the Legislature is imperiously demanded to this subject; and they should revise the whole code of laws respecting the poor, and provide effectually against the mismanagement of the funds appropriated for their relief.

It is ascertained by Mr. M. that the majority of Mendicants are parish paupers; who are driven, he conjectures, to a state of Beggary, by the practice of refusing relief to paupers out of the workhouse: but it is admitted that there are certain general causes, such as voluntary idleness or delinquency. Beggars are of two classes, the occasional and the systematic; the former are objects of pity, the latter of correction. Common Beggars, who make a trade of extorting alms, are the pest of Society; they live in a constant lie; they make fictitious demands on benevolence; and they are enabled, by their impositions on the humane, to exist in idleness and profligacy. These wretches desire not Mr. Martin's interference; since, if effectual measures were taken to remove the disgrace of mendicity, the *trade and occupation of begging* would be at an end.

Considerable pains have been taken by Mr. Martin to ascertain facts; and towards defraying his expences, two warrants of 500l. * each

* By the account given at the end of this pamphlet, it appears that the fees to Clerks, &c. on receiving 500l. out of the Treasury, amount to 33l. 17s. 3d. or nearly 7 per cent. ! ! !

were

were issued to him by the Lords of the Treasury. He seems to have proceeded with much discretion, as well as gentleness; observing that, though 'the vices of Mendicants may deserve correction, their miseries should excite pity, and engage the endeavours of their fellow-creatures to trace the sources of the evil, and by amending their moral habits stop its progress.' From his examination, Mr. M. was led to believe that Mr. Colquhoun, in his "Treatise on the Police of the Metropolis," has underrated the number of Common Beggars and Vagrants asking alms," at 3000: he ventures to estimate them at nearly double this number; and, including children, he states them to amount to about 15,288. Hence it appears that Mendicity is an evil of much extent. For a remedy, he proposes a Board of Inquiry into the cases of Beggars in the Metropolis; the division of it into five districts, with a commissioner to each district; and that an account of their proceedings should be annually submitted to parliament. The plan of proceeding for the disposal of *Parochial Beggars of Home Parishes*, of *Beggars of distant Parishes*, and of *Non-parochial Beggars*, (the three classes into which they are divided,) is briefly detailed; and hope is expressed that the whole craft of Street-beggary in the Metropolis may by these means be abolished. Some attempts ought, doubtless, to be made, to effect so desirable an object. Mo-y.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Art. 46. *Nascita, Carattere, e Alcuni Fatti Notabili di Luigi XVI. Re di Francia. Sua Prigonia nel Tempio, tradotta dal Giornale del Sigr. Clery, Cameriere del Re. Con una breve Appendice al Giornale.* 8vo. pp. 232. Printed at Oxford, 1802.

This work is politely dedicated by the anonymous author to the Hon. Mrs. Ellis; and a sensible and ingenious Preface then introduces us to an ingenious simile, illustrating a comparison between the renovating ashes of the phœnix and the immortal flame of virtue, which rises triumphant, refined, and exalted, from the darkest shades of persecuted calamity. Often as we have read the afflicting tragedy of Louis the Sixteenth, we still find our sensations the same: but, having before spoken on the affecting and simple detail contained in the journal of the faithful *Clery**, we have only now to remark on its present appearance in Italian. This sweet language is so well calculated by its harmonious accents for the pathetic, that numerous passages in this translation may be said to have derived additions both of elegance and pathos; and in the part of the work intitled *Notizie Preliminari al Giornale*, we meet with many amusing anecdotes of the early and later years of this unfortunate monarch. The volume is handsomely printed, and is ornamented by a well-executed engraving of Louis XVI. Mrs. Mo-y.

Art. 47. *The Lives of the most Eminent Painters*, from the Year 1250, when the Art of Painting was revived by Cimabue, to the Year 1767: abridged from Pilkington. By Edward Shepard, D. D. late Rector of Bettiscomb, &c. 8vo. pp. 130. 3s. Jones. 1803.

The second edition of the work, of which this professes to be an abridgement, was noticed in our 25th volume, N. S., where we mentioned the additions that had been made to the original publication.

* See Rev. Vol. xxvi. N. S. p. 410.

Of

Of the present volume, it is out of our power to speak in terms of praise; the design, we think, was injudicious, and the execution is faulty.—The following meagre account and unjust and degrading character of Hogarth, whose original genius reflects so much credit on this country, will decidedly prove that the author of this volume cannot be commended either for accuracy of knowlege or for impartiality of representation:

'William Hogarth, died 1764, aged 66, painted Portraits and Comic Scenes. This genius was bound apprentice to a silver-smith, and was taught to engrave arms and ciphers. He engraved seventeen plates for an edition of Hudibras. His first distinguished work was a representation of Wanstead Assembly, the idea taken from life. He painted the Music-room at Vauxhall. His Harlot's and Rake's Progress introduced him into fame. In 1753, he published his Analysis of Beauty. His force lay in low caricatura subjects; he attempted historical subjects, but did not succeed. Witness his paintings in St. Mary Redcliff's church, Bristol.'

Is this all the praise that Hogarth merited; and can it truly be said of him, '*his force lay in low caricatura subjects?*' Dr. Shepard, however, declares that he 'pretends not to be a connoisseur.'—We are inclined to think, from this specimen, that he would have consulted his reputation if he had not pretended to have been an author. S.R.

Art. 48. *The Works of Thomas Chatterton.* 3 Vols. 8vo. 1l. 11s. 6d. Boards. Longman and Rees. 1803.

This is a collected edition of the works 'of the most extraordinary young man (according to Mr. Southey the Editor) that ever appeared in this country;' with his Life, which has before passed under our review, from the pen of Dr. Gregory. We have on several occasions expressed our opinion regarding the productions of this singular and unfortunate character; and we willingly take an early opportunity of announcing a publication, which is benevolently intended for the benefit of the author's sister. D.°

Art. 49. *Miscellanies by the late Daniel Webb, Esq.* 4to. pp. 330. 18s. Boards. Nichols and Son. 1802.

A recollection of the pleasure, with which we formerly perused the works of this very ingenious writer, induces us to impart the welcome information to our readers, that they are now collected into a handsome volume; which is embellished by a Frontispiece from the pencil of the ingenious Mr. William Lock. D.°

Art. 50. *The Beauties of England and Wales;* or, Delineations Topographical, Historical, and Descriptive of each County; embellished with Engravings. By John Britton, and Edward Widlake Brayley. Vol. III. 8vo. pp. 570. 1l. (L. P. 1l. 12s.) Boards. Vernor and Hood. 1802.

An article in our last Volume, giving an account of the preceding parts of this publication, will have conveyed sufficient knowlege to our readers respecting its nature and design; and therefore it is only necessary for us on this occasion to state the contents of the Volume now before us.—The diligent and ingenious writers have been equally attentive in their researches relative to the Counties of Cumberland and

and Derby, and the Isle of Man; and their delineations will be found as exact and entertaining as those which were introduced into their former productions. Their information is selected with judgment from various writers, and the Views are mostly good likenesses, and well executed: but from this praise we are obliged to except the View of Northampton, which appears to us to be ill engraved, and to furnish an indistinct, if not an erroneous, idea of that neat and handsome town. S.R.

SINGLE SERMONS.

Art. 51. *An Address to the Inhabitants of Britain*, founded on the Advice of Nehemiah to the Jews, in Neh. iv. 14. 8vo. 3d. or 2s. per Dozen. Ginger.

We have here an old sermon, adapted to the present times. It was, as the editor (Mr. Evans) informs us, originally composed by the late Mr. R. Noyes, and delivered by him at Cranbrook, Kent, Dec. 14, 1755, when the apprehension of an Invasion generally prevailed. Some alterations and omissions are made, to adapt it to suit the momentous crisis at which we are now arrived: but the old formal divisions are preserved; which, as well as one of the exhortations, may not be universally relished: 'Shake off your *fears*, O Britons! at such an awful prospect,' says the preacher; to which the country at large would be disposed to reply, "We have *no fears* to shake off; we prepare, but not with trembling." The discourse concludes with holding up to our imitation the magnanimity of a mother, who, when her son was going to battle, presented him with a shield; saying, "Bring this back, my son, as a Trophy; or be brought back on it as thy Bier." Mo-y.

Art. 52. *On Occasion of the threatened Invasion*, preached at Richmond, Surrey, July 31, and again, by Desire, Aug. 7, 1803. By Thomas Wakefield, B.A. Minister of Richmond. 8vo. 1s. Hurst.

When our country is menaced with destruction by an ambitious and powerful adversary, the exhortations of the Clergy should glow with patriotism, and "*to your tents, O Israel!*" should be sounded from the pulpit. To the honour of the Church be it said, that its ministers are not tardy on the present occasion, but have manifested great alertness in the discharge of this duty*. Mr. Wakefield evinces great temper as well as ardour, and marks his detestation of the wicked designs of the enemy, without degrading his profession and himself by that unrestrained and extravagant abuse, in which some persons, in eminent situations, have indulged themselves. Disclaiming all animosity against the Consul as Consul, or against Frenchmen as Frenchmen, he merely considers them as the enemies of his Country, and endeavours to assist his hearers in forming a lively apprehension of the dreadful consequences of their successful invasion of us; in order that every Briton may be prepared to resist them with unanimity and fortitude. In fine, he exhorts us to practise the virtues of our ancestors, and to display ourselves as that righteous nation, which the Moral Government of God uniformly exalts. Do

* Various discourses on this subject have just appeared, which we have not yet had time to peruse.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A Letter has been received from Mr. Hubbard, in relation to some parts of our notice of his pamphlet intitled "*The Triumph of Poesy*," in our last Review. He charges us with having done him injustice, by representing him to have been so devoid of taste as to have complimented Lord Lyttelton's poetry in preference to that of Gray; and as having committed an error in naming Hampton instead of Twickenham as the residence of Pope.

On the first point, we shall content ourselves with replying that no eulogy whatever, either directly or indirectly, is bestowed on Gray, while Hagley's *Classic Grove* is introduced where the poet Thomson sings of

'The Patriot's virtuous toils, *and Lucy's softer claim.*'

Surely it must be inferred that such a passage, in a poem on the Triumph of Poesy, was designed as a compliment to the Muse of Hagley, together with the praise of Lyttelton as a Patriot: though his triumphs as a poet do not constitute a separate theme.

On the other ground of dissatisfaction, Mr. H. says,

'The passage, where Hampton's vale is noticed, is evidently relative to The Rape of the Lock. The characters, who figure in that exquisite performance, are represented by the poet as going by water on a party of pleasure to Hampton Court. At *Hampton* the scene is laid; and there the unfortunate, or rather fortunate, rape was committed, which gave rise to the most beautiful poem of the kind that was ever written. These are the points, and these only, to which the stanza refers. It never entered into my own head, nor did I conceive it possible it could have entered into any other head, that it contained the remotest allusion to Pope's residence. It is surely no great stretch of poetical licence to say, that the strain rises from the spot or neighbourhood where the transactions, which it celebrates, took place;—

"Where Hampton's vale with Grecian Tempé vies,
A sprightlier strain emerges from the wave."—

In the stanzas allotted to the Triumph of Pope, his name is not introduced; he is only designated by a description of some of his poems, and *Hampton's Vale* will by most readers be supposed to refer to his place of residence. Mr. H. assures us that he meant otherwise: but, if he exerted a poetical licence in supposing the strain to arise from the place at which the scene is laid, and not from the dwelling of the poet, then, for the guidance of the reader, he ought to have subjoined a note. He is also offended with our '*squeamishness*' in objecting to *smit* instead of *smitten*, and quotes Milton as an authority for its use: in the same manner, he might have cited Pope in justicfiation of *writ* for *written*, &c.: but, in the present age, our language is more grammaticized than it was in their times, and we must not allow errors to be quoted in justification of errors. Mo-y.

Various other Letters remain for consideration, which are unavoidably postponed.

*** The APPENDIX to Vol. xli. of the MONTHLY REVIEW, *New Series*, is published with this Number.

Errors. pp. 66, 82, 102.